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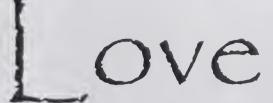
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Love Token Society Newsletter

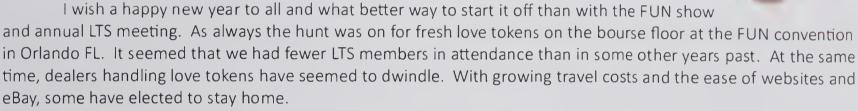
February 2014

No. 271

etter



Carol Bastable



Speaking of travel, that was not easy for some at FUN this year. The North was experiencing a Polar Vortex and many were snowed in. The exhibit chairman for FUN said he lost a judge and a helper at the show because they were snowed in. Another couple attending the show shared that they left home under a travel three advisory. They risked being fined if they were caught on the roadways, not to mention possible bodily injury under those travel conditions. It was their first time at the show and they had planned on it all year. That is commitment to the hobby!

The exhibit section had two noteworthy exhibits this year. One was on the English enameled coins of Saint George slaying the dragon. It contained three pence, six pence, shilling, florin, half crown, half sovereign, and crown coins. The Saint George and dragon design was only struck on crowns, half sovereigns, and sovereigns so the other denominations were changed to mimic the St. George coins. Crowns from George III, George IV, and Victoria were all represented in various colors with different enameling styles and techniques. A possibly unique black, white, and gray crown was theorized that it could have been a mourning pin remembering a WW I fallen soldier. In Great Britain, Saint George slaying the dragon was a design pictured on recruitment posters during the First World War. Another section featured "A Horse of a Different Color". In England, white was adopted as the standard color for St. George's horse but also existing in this exhibit was a tan, brown, and rare and possibly unique blue horse. Pins were abundant but there was also a fabulous necklace, belt buckle, and gold half sovereign pendant in a large eighteen carat gold champlevé enameled bezel.

The other exhibit to delight love token collectors was one on penny art and alteration. There were various one cent love tokens, satirical coins, and carved coins (hobo nickels on cents). United States cents and Great Britain pennies were both included in the exhibit along with a small section on other countries. Pop-outs, prison art teapots, encased coins, enamel art from the 1960's (jewelry: using a penny as a base to adhere enamel), coin spoons, and pennies made into sculpture were all represented. The miniature coin sculptures were made in Great Britain from large copper pennies and ranged from candlesticks to doll furniture to a bicycle and a birdcage. Collecting dollhouse miniatures was popular in the United States during the late 1970's and early 1980's and many of the sculpted miniatures may have been made during that period. They are not often seen in this country but can occasionally be found on eBay.

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Ask Miss Love Token MISSLOVETOKEN@ VERIZON.NET

Financial Statement

General Funds

Checkbook Balance December 4, 2013 \$5,199.54 Receipts

Member Dues \$465.00 LT Sale Commissions \$29.00 Total Receipts \$494.00

Subtotal \$5,693.54

Expenses

CK# 1589 Robert Newhouse

Cindy - Layout \$75.00 KSU Copy Center \$90.73 Stamps \$82.80 Misc Postage \$7.24

Total \$255.77 CK# 1591 ANA Dues \$ 35.00 CK# 1592(2) Richard Burdick Videos \$ 50.00 \$340.77

Checkbook Balance January 24, 2014

\$5,352.77

The amount above includes 1618.00 Life Member Dues and \$1264.82 from book sales.

NEW MEMBER 2093 Anthony Fanger

Kittery Point, ME

Secretary/Treasurer
Sid Gale

NOTE: Member Dues are DUE - \$15.00

Send to Sid Gale, payable to LTS or Love Token Society. If there are any questions please call Sid Gale at 225-664-0718.



Love Letters - by Karen K. Marshall

2 cups shredded cooked chicken

1 can (4oz) chopped green chilies, drained

4 karge green onions, finely chopped 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Dash garlic powder and oinion powder Dash salt1 pkg. (16 oz) wonton wrappers

Vegetable oil for frying

Combine chicken, chilies, onions cheese, garlic & onion powder and salt in medium-size bowl; mix well. Place a wrapper on counter with one corner facing toward you. Put about 1 teaspoon chicken mixture slightly below center of wrapper and fold bottom corner up. Fold sides in, points overlapping. Wet edges to seal. Fold final corner down, to resemble an envelope Wet edges slightly to seal. Repeat with remaining chicken and wrappers.

Deep fry, a few at a time, until golden and crispy around edges. Drain on paper towels; serve hot.

NOTE: Love Letters are good plain, but they are also good served with sour cream and/or sweet-sour sauce.

They freeze beautifully. To prevent sticking, spread uncooked wontons on cookie sheets and set in freezer just until hard. Do not thaw before frying. If desired, they can be fried several hours before guests arrive; simply reheat 400degree oven for 5-10 minutes.



Black and white crown



1889 crown/love token



Reverse of crown at left.



Half sovereign/fancy bezel.

A representative for Fun photographed some of the exhibits. I was also interviewed for FUN television. As the information becomes available I will report it in the LL and on the LTS Facebook page. Currently there is a video clip interview of Richard Burdick on the LTS website on the homepage (www.lovetokensociety.com). LTS purchased the extended version of this interview for its reference library and the video was shown this year at the LTS meeting. The collection covers several forms of coin art including love tokens. Burdick's collection is a very selective and high-end collection and truly amazing when viewed in its entirety.

There were 13 people in attendance at the meeting including one longtime member and one very new member just joining at the show. Attending was Arthur Gershman, an officer in the club back before Sid Gale and Carol Harmes (now Bastable) were officers. We shared fond memories of our departed past President Lloyd Entenmann. Our newest member Mathew Taylor was accompanied by his brother, Archie Taylor Jr. (President of The Original Hobo Nickel Society). The brothers are the sons of Archie Taylor Sr., a departed LTS member and friend. Archie Sr. was among the first LTS members I met and befriended. This was Mathew's first time at FUN and he flew all the way from Portland Maine. He explained it was both an emotional and heartwarming trip for him as he was able to meet a number of dealers and club members who had known his Dad.

Another member at the meeting, Doug Thurber, shared a sad tale of loss. He had brought a prize possession to a coffee house to show to friends and somehow lost it. His last memory of it was slipping it in a shirt pocket but he must have leaned over or pulled his phone out of his pocket thus losing it. He brought a reward poster with him. The coin is a Peace dollar with a type three gold dollar mounted in a drilled hole at center. Only one side of the silver dollar has been smoothed and engraved: LOTS OF LUCK TO IZZIE FROM CHARLIE 7-18-39. Should anyone encounter it, call Doug at 360-630-0931.

A new year can bring sadness and joy as we remember losses and have high expectations for the future. We would like to thank our retired President Ernie Turnes for his volunteer work. Carrie Ann Benson also volunteered last year to be a co-administrator on Facebook. She is available to add new members and has been a great help. We also have elections coming and have a volunteer to run for Vice President. As for editor, our search still continues. This is a crucial position that needs to be filled and we need that person by summer so the newsletter may continue. Fred Schwan has signed on to write a column each issue on late date love tokens, namely WW II trench art. It is an interesting and little studied topic appealing to many history buffs. I would love to see a column on early English love tokens to round out the materials contained in the Love Letter. If this area is of special interest, please share some of your collection with us. When I first retired as President, I started the Ask Miss Love Token column and a "Coin of the Month" column to which I supplied the first entry but no one followed suit. Even bringing back that column would be of help for a new editor who needs member articles in order to put together a newsletter. If you are able to contribute and help make this club its best, please coordinate with us.







Brown enameled horse.

Blue enameled horse.

Doug's lost coin-reward!

To view in color, go to: http://lovetokensociety.com/past-newsletter-articles/newsletter/ Login: Lovingit 2012

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Trench Art

For most love token collectors, trench art is a little recognized sub set of the greater field. For me it is my love token specialty. It is a long story of how I came to volunteer to provide a trench art column to the Love Letter. In due course, I will tell you about that and how I came to coin trench art and other things. In this first installment I present two great World War II trench art engraved coins. Both of these are from the North African campaign. The Allies invaded North Africa in November 1942. It was the first offensive ground action for the United States. Trench art from this campaign is relatively scarce so I am happy to have these two pieces. In addition to overall scarcity, this pair is very instructional.





The Casablanca token is on a very appropriate 1942 British 2 shilling coin. Although it is not an elaborate engraving, the quality is high enough that I consider it a "professional made," as opposed to a soldier made piece. The other coin is an example of the latter (soldier made) type. The November 8 date on the French coin was D-day for Operation Torch, the invasion date. It is a bit unusual to have a specific date on a trench art coin, but very unusual to have an important date like this. Probably the coin was created later as a souvenir of the invasion, but it is not impossible that it was actually created on that date by some soldier or sailor who was not fully engaged in operations. Additionally, this coin has a name which is of course likely the name of the creator. This type trench art coin is often called a "dog tag." Anyway, this name allows some research possibilities. We might be able to find biographical information on J. C. Beck then confirm that he was in Operation Torch. fredschwan@yahoo.com.

My first introduction to the Love Token Society was years ago, when Lloyd Entenmann contacted me about the fact that we both wrote articles about "love tokens" – but they were very different, and certainly I must be confused! Lloyd's love tokens were coins, while mine were mostly paper. We learned to love them both! We shared our knowledge, and the mail I received from him, the envelopes beautifully plastered with stamps, was like receiving tokens of love. In the process, I became enamored with his fascinating coin passion, and became a collector.

Today, love tokens are a major theme in many antiques I cherish. The phrase seems to embody the personal sentiment of an ultimate gift from the heart. Coins are only one aspect of the category we call love tokens, as the term now signifies anything given as a gesture of affection or love. Another, which I shall describe, is a small paper keepsake, a tender symbol of love.

My collecting focus is the history and evolution of the Valentine, generally recognized as a love letter or card sent to celebrate Valentine's Day, February 14th. It has been observed that Valentines, allowing for the delays of early postal delivery, could be received a month prior to that date, or even a month later. It has also been observed that the very same tribute could be sent any day of the year – but would be called a Token of Love or Token of Affection. There was no time improper to celebrate that most tender emotion.

Cherished as a tender talisman, the handmade love token was revered – it possessed the fingerprints of love, the tenderness of friendship and affection, and sometimes, it was adorned with a lock of hair as a treasured keepsake. Many varied craft techniques were shared in books and magazines of the day, and the resulting souvenirs were often presented to friends, or pasted in poetic albums.

Another type of early paper gift token was a small card, which may be a direct descendant of the elegant engraved calling cards that were popular in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries. Embellished with the name of the presenter, they were exchanged, or left at residences, and proclaimed a person of fine character and means. The tiny paper tokens also seem to be the precursor of the later Victorian calling card, but with a difference. The designs might be elegant calligraphy – doves and floral designs – or simple wood-engraved cards with borders and mottoes. There could be a banner or ribbon where a name would be inscribed, as well. The printed cards were often embellished with paint – making roses red, birds blue, and wreaths vividly colored. Hearts, of course, were often red – and the tiny cards, just about an inch and a half by three inches – became known as Tokens of Love, or Tokens of Affection. They were not specifically

Valentines; they were cards for every-day affection; delicate, and saved. It is not unusual for a collector to come across a small trifle box, which would have been a receptacle for the little treasures.

Southworth A. Howland, the prominent stationer in Worcester, MA, produced some of these as commercial motto cards, and attached samples of his new idea to a letter he sent to a business associate on July 3, 1841. Four years later, a receipt on his letterhead, in my collection, reveals that he sold eight dozen of these ornamented cards, for \$24.00, or four cents each, wholesale. Coincidentally, his daughter, Esther, began her own company just a few years later, creating highly embellished and very popular cards. As a famous woman entrepreneur, Esther Howland came to be known as



Wood engraved Token of Love, Printed by S.A. Howland, Worcester, MA, circa 1840

"The Mother of the American Valentine." They both appear to have possessed appealing business acumen, for their romantic products were highly successful.

A hallmark of genteel etiquette, by the 1880s, the culture associated with the Victorian calling card exemplified sophistication. Also known as a hidden name card, it would traditionally be presented on specific visiting days at proper homes, or left on a small tray in the foyer. Not much larger than an inch by two, they might be elaborately fringed with silk floss, or bear simple calligraphy. A die-cut, chromolithographed image, called a scrap, would be glued to the card at one edge; when the scrap was lifted from the opposite edge, the callers' name would be revealed. A popular motif was the image of an outstretched hand, a symbolic representation of friendship and trust.

Numerous sample books and folders appeared from companies and entrepreneurs, who eagerly encouraged the inexpensive and popular trend. Enticing designs and custom printing made calling cards an essential and tasteful accessory for this young country in the midst of the Industrial Revolution.

Members of the Love Token Society should embrace their name as a cherished icon. Expressions of love and affection take many forms – from a simple gesture, a flower, a paper token, or a precious coin, emblazoned with love. While some people of that era may never have known about coin love tokens – there were alternatives, and there was definitely no confusion in recognizing an expression of love.



A good wife makes a good husband. Circa 1840

About the author:

Nancy Rosin's favorite metallic love tokens are early American planchets and formal marriage tokens, and she wears a gold coin for good luck, always. Nancy is President of The Ephemera Society of America, (www.ephemerasociety.org) and President of the National Valentine Collectors Association (www.valentinecollectors.com).



Engraved German lace calling card, Circa 1830



Heart-shaped love token,. Circa 1840

Embossed Token of Affection Circa 1850



Victorian Hidden Name Card, circa 1870

Coins for Sale

Seller: David Jerdee, 2631 Westview Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901 Email: omaha1898@peoplepc.com Phone: 507-288-2387 If you want a clearer picture just email and I will send it.



Love
Love Token Society Newsletter

Or. Robert C. Newhouse
5840 Tuttle Cove Rd.

Manhattan, KS 66503

COIN SALES

Seller: David Jerdee 2631 Westview Lane NW Rochester, MN 55901

In remitting, please do not forget to include the postage as follows: Orders

up to \$ 50 - add \$3.85 up to \$100 - add \$4.50 up to \$150 - add \$5.00 up to \$200 - add \$6.00 up to \$300 - add \$7.50 up to \$400 - add \$8.75 OVER \$400 - add \$10.25



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Love Token Society Newsletter

April 2014

No. 272

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President's Message

Carol Bastable

The Year in Review

The Love Token Society has been slowly moving out of the Victorian gas lantern age and embracing modern electricity and what it can do...namely the computer age. The website is going well although report a love token submissions have greatly waned and I know there are still a lot of great pictorials out there that need to be sent in for all to see. Visit: http://lovetokensociety.com/

A Facebook page for the club was also added last year. Right now a lot of the members on Facebook are modern love token artists. It is a great place to go to find people to engrave a special commission. I do try to maintain a balance between all the newly made love tokens by posting Victorian love tokens on the site periodically. Very few LTS collectors have joined the site and it is mostly engravers that have found the site. We have however recruited some new members through it and the free advertising has been great for the club. Visit: https://www.facebook.com/groups/149160525251231/

And speaking of free press, the Love Token Society Pinterest board was also started last year. This has been a wonderful tool. There have been many repins of photos from our board. This gets information about love tokens and the club out there to people who may never before have seen a love token. The truly wonderful part about Pinterest is that we are able to post any eBay picture to the Pinterest board that we desire and we do not have to get consent from any of the sellers on eBay. This lets us post photos that we are not able to have on the regular website. Visit: http://www.pinterest.com/misslovetoken/love-token-society/

And last but certainly not least, I would like to thank our officers and editor because they enable this club to exist. They have carried on year after year keeping the club going despite having wanted to retire from their positions for a number of years now. We say goodbye to Ernie Turnes, past President and former Vice President. Ernie assures us that although retired, he will not be forgotten because he will continue to submit articles to the editor. He has periodically tried to

Continued on page 3

PRESIDENT WEBMASTER Carol Bastable 5145 Admiral Place Sarasota, FL 34231 chevybassdad01@ verizon.net VICE PRESIDENT OPEN SECRETARY/TREASURER Sid Gale P.O. Box 2351 Denham Springs, LA 70727 (225) 664-0718 sidgale@cox.net LOVE LETTER EDITOR Robert C. Newhouse 5840 Tuttle Cove Rd. Manhattan, KS 66503 (785) 539-1831 rcn@ksu.edu

Ask Miss Love Token MISSLOVETOKEN@ VERIZON.NET

General Funds

Checkbook Balance

January 24, 2014

\$5,352.27

Receipts

Member Dues \$420.00

Total Receipts \$420.00

Subtotal \$5,772.27

Expenses

Financial Statement

CK# 1594 Robert Newhouse

 Cindy - Layout
 \$ 75.00

 KSU Copy Center
 \$220.40

 Stamps
 \$ 61.00

 Misc Postage
 \$ 6.00

 Total
 \$362.40

Total Expenses \$362.40

Checkbook Balance

April 4, 2014

\$5,409.87

The amount above includes 1618.00 Life Member Dues and \$1264.82 from book sales.

NEW MEMBER

2094 Mathew Taylor 318 Samuel Smith

2095 Stanley Flack 2096 Phyllis Slaght Portland, Maine Kendall. FL

Seminole, FL Marietta, GA Secretary/Treasurer
Sid Gale

NOTE: IF 2014 appears in front of your name, your annual dues for 2014 are due. Please mail \$15.00 to Sid Gale. Payable to LTS or Love Token Society. If there are any questions please call Sid Gale at 225-664-0718.



The editor sincerely apologizes for the error in the Febuary issue of the Love Letter. The article entitled "What is a love toke?" by Nancy Rosin should have read, "What is a love token?"

coax others to do the same and will continue to motivate by example. He was active writing even before his terms with LTS. My favorite article he wrote was a fictional one where he found a love token bracelet for a very cheap price and everything on it, pictures and initials, corresponded to his own life and family. Then at the end of the article I think he ended it with a sentence about waking up...it had been a dream.

With Ernie retired, I filled the President vacancy and a call went out for a VP. Frank Van Valen came forward and volunteered for the position and I look forward to working with him. Frank has been collecting coins since 1961. His interests are Conder tokens, Spanish-American 2 reales, and exotic exonumia which of course includes love tokens. Specifically he is working on completing a Liberty Seated dime love token date set. But more than that, he is solely using un-holed and un-mounted dimes. It is about 15 years in the making and currently only lacks 1837 large date, 1837 small date, 1846, 1847, and a few dates in the 1860s. Frank is a professional numismatic since 1987 and has worked for various coin companies including Q. David Bowers.

We are also looking for a new editor this year. Bob has been editor since before I joined the club in 1988 or so. He worked side by side with Lloyd Entenman for years. Bob has been retired from Kansas State University for a few years now, and is ready to start enjoying his golden years and hopefully will be able to travel without worrying about deadlines to be met. Also, since he is no longer with KSU, our publishing contacts there may be coming to an end anyway. Believe it or not, it has been about 14 years since his wife Barbara retired as club secretary and she was in that office long before I joined the club. Even back then Bob said he was ready for his replacement. Thanks so much Newhouses for your endurance and sticking to it for us. Without you, there would not have been a Love Token Society.

The club is trying to find a replacement for Bob by summer. Please, if you have the computer skills to become editor then give it a try, you will find volunteering very personally rewarding. I was thrilled to see a color LTS issue last time and the new editor can check printing prices to see if it is something that we can implement. We have a dues change (\$15) because publishing and mailing currently costs more than what the annual dues are. I have suggested even going to four issues a year so we can have fine quality printing. The new editor and officers will meet on the topic to see if it is possible.

The club has also been without a regular coin sales person and the current coins for sale come from one individual's collection/stock. When we lost our sales volunteer, LTS printed a form for individuals to submit coins for sale directly, manage the sale, and ship the coins. This is a position that is still waiting to be filled and I would like to see the coin auction format brought back as well. If we do move to four issues, maybe even a special coin auction/coin sales issue thrown in as a fifth issue from year to year might be a nice surprise. Publishing prices and the amount of time a new publisher can devote will determine how we proceed.

LTS is also going to try to bring back the coin of the month column. I started both the Coin of the Month column and the Ask Miss Love Token column when I retired as President around 2004. The first coin of the month was supplied by me but no others were submitted by the membership and it did not take off. I am again submitting the first one for the revival and hope others will follow suit. As members we need to supply the editor with items to publish so it makes that job easier and fewer reprints are then needed to fill space.

Who wants to be involved in this new phase for the club? I would love to work with you.

Trench Art

Last time in my inaugural column, I showed you two interesting trench art pieces from November 1942 and the invasion of North Africa by Allied forces. This time I will show you one of my absolutely favorite trench art pieces also from North Africa, but a few years later—1944. It is a Walking Liberty half dollar (San Francisco no less) with a wonderful pyramid image on the obverse. Make that pyramids.

It is unusual for a World War II trench art piece to have a half dollar as a host and it is equally unusual to have such an elaborate pyramid theme. On the other hand, I guess if a soldier is in Egypt and inclined to a coin trench art piece, what would be more likely than pyramids? Individually and, especially, collectively this makes for an unusual trench art piece (note to self, a future column should deal with a term to replace "trench art piece").

Now for the rest of the story. Not only is this one of my favorite pieces, it is not in my collection, it is not even close! Here is the story.

Several years ago at an ANA convention, I looked through the love tokens that member Ken Barr had for sale. I may or many not have bought anything. He then told me that he had his collection (or at least part of it) with him and that I could look at if I liked. If I liked it?! I jumped on the chance.

Ken has a wonderful collection. There were many really fine pieces that I wanted to buy then and would buy now, but I was polite. It was his collection. I praised him for the beauty, quality, diversity and other aspects of his collection. Then it happened.

Near the back of a long row of two by twos, I pulled out the 1944 Egypt. I loved it instantly. I was a serious coin trench art collector even then. I not only loved it—I wanted it!

I broke down and asked him if he would sell it—if he would please sell it. If pretty please he would sell it. Same answer to all questions. You know the answer was no. He said that he would have to die for me to get it.

I told him that that was not good enough. Would he please write instructions on the holder to sell this coin to Fred Schwan upon his death? He agreed and wrote the instructions.

Later in the show I was accosted by an excited collector friend. He asked me if I knew that Ken Barr had a coin with instructions on it to sell to upon his death. I responded, "Oh, you saw Ken Barr's collection!"

Ken and I have been friends for many years even if we do not see each other very often. I certainly wish him no ill, but still, I sure want to see that 1944 Egypt find its way to what I consider to be its rightful home.

I would love to hear from you on any subject related to trench art: fredschwan@yahoo.com.



Love Tokens and the Language of Flowers By Carol Bastable

With the arrival of spring, most people think of flowers and renewal of life. In the Victorian era, flowers had year-round importance and the simple act of giving flowers was far more complicated since flowers had implied meanings and significance, making it very important to pick just the right type to convey ones feelings and intentions. Complex books were written on "the language of flowers." Only a remnant of this language exists today, with colors of roses conveying different feelings of love or friendship.

Victorian men often wore boutonnieres (a flower in the lapel) and women carried nosegays, miniature bouquets carried as much for practical reasons as for decoration. In the 20th and 21st centuries, most take odor-free air for granted. In Victorian times, one could be confronted by smells from open markets without refrigeration, horse droppings, poor sanitation and lack of proper indoor plumbing. The nosegay could be sniffed if an unpleasant odor arose and, as the name suggests, it would make the nose happy.

Flowers were a very popular decorative motif. Silverware patterns, vases and bowls with floral designs proliferated. Botanical themes were frequently used in stained glass windows and lamps, such as those by Handel, Pierpoint, and Tiffany. Furniture was ornate and hand carved. The classic parlor set of a settee and two chairs often had rose carved across the back. By 1890, an entire art movement depicted organic subjects including lush intertwining vines and flowers.

Ladies often spent their leisure time creating floral themes in needlepoint, pettipoint, embroidery, lace making and beaded objects. Scrapbooks were made using pressed flowers, postcards and advertising cards, many of which contained floral designs. Several postcard publishers chronicled a series of flowers with their meanings defined.

Floral designs were popular themes for jewelry in many forms from pins to lockets and even pocket watchcases. Flowers were recurrent themes on both single coin love tokens and love towken jewelry. Patterns include either flower(s) used with initial or names, single flowers, sprays bunches, wreaths, orders or in baskets:

A challenge lies in trying to identify the exact type of flower engraved, since they may convey sentiments.

Deciphering the flower types can be perplexing for two reasons. Love tokens do not exhibit color except for a few



unusual enameled examples, and designs are often stylized for easier engraving, with four to six petal flowers being the most common types. Many love tokens are a form of folk art simplified to the most basic elements, symbolic of the subject matter and depicted both flat and symmetrical.

Plowers with five rounded petals are a common type found on love tokens and may symbolize a variety of flowers from Forge-me-nots to wild roses. There are a few examples of this shape flower enameled with blue petals and yellow centers, which are probably examples of Forge-me-nots. As the name suggests, these flowers are intended as remembrance of the person who gave them. Some references also interpret them to mean true love, as blue symbolized love during the Victorian period.

Occasionally specific types of flowers can be identified. These realistic interpretations doubtless conveyed the thoughts and feelings of the giver. One can check the meanings of the flowers to unlock a secret message. "The Language of Flowers," first published by Michael Joseph Ltd. in October of 1968, is an excellent source. This book is actually a reprint of a much older manuscript bearing the date August 8, 1913. Flower meanings could vary depending on the reference and it was important that lovers were both on the same page, using the same reference.

Many love tokens remain a mystery as to what they meant, as special stories are lost with time. However, flowers may hold a key to interpret these tokens of love. It is a special treat when an engraver was adept at his craft and knowledgeable enough in botany to render a variety of flower types. The result is a particularly successful communication of the feelings conveyed by the gift of a love token.

Flower meanings from "The Language of Flowers" manuscript:

lvy = friendship, fidelity, marriage
Clover (four-leafed) = be mine
Clover (white) = think of me
Rose = love
Lily of the Valley = return of happiness
Forget-me-nots = true love
Dogwood = durability
Fern = sincerity
Pansy = thoughts
Coreopsis = always cheerful
Tulip (red) = declaration of love
Tulip (yellow) = hopeless love
White Daisy = innocence

Turn of the century post cards with similar and sometimes different meanings:

Ivy = constancy

Clover = good luck

Rose = true love

Forget-me-nots = true love or remembrance

Pansy = thoughtfulness

Coin of the Month

This month's coin is submitted by Carol Bastable. It is a 1923 Peace dollar that was made into a love token pin. The late date love token is a post Victorian masterpiece and falls in the Art Decoperiod.

It has been previously mentioned that initials start to vary in design around the turn of the century (1900's). The triple overlapping lettering is abandoned for more simple script (linear layout), block lettering, or a scrolling monogram style.



This is a tough one to decipher, but possibly "EHR"

The new style of monogram, either scrolling or block, becomes a signature for elegance in items from silverware to custom bath towels to personal stationary and appears randomly throughout the 20th century. Even jewelry, mainly lockets but also a few love tokens, is regularly adorned with scrolling monograms in the early 1900's. Plain silver monogramed disks are later used in jewelry from the 1950's to present day although hand engraving becomes quite scarce and machine engraving takes over.



Reverse: 1923 Peace dollar with working pin.

This month's coin has a classic scrolling monogram and an ornate pleasing border. Although the border is elaborate as one would expect Victorian or Art Nouveau design to be, this one actually has Art Deco traits. There is a curving geometry to the border that reflects a more modern aesthetic and it contains what look like stylized or abstracted flowers. Art Deco is about sleek and modern design but it can also bridge the two styles, Deco and Nouveau.

This coin has a lot of appeal in both design and that is on an impressive large coin. The most important part however is that it is a Peace dollar. A type coin love token collector will understand how rare these coins are to find engraved due to the late date. Love tokens began to fade out of popularity after the Columbian exposition and by the early 1900's; they were few and far between.

Coins for Sale Seller: David Jerdee, 2631 Westview Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901 Email: omaha1898@peoplepc.com Phone: 507-288-2387 If you want a clearer picture just email and I will send it. HPHIJ-2 Name IJ-4 J-1 OFC J-3 WEALJ-5 Lothie J-6 1894 Ed nice very fancy nice Can10c Can 10c 10c H Dime 10c 10c \$20.00 Obv \$15.00 Obv \$20.00 \$20.00 | 1861 blank 1877 \$15.00 1835 \$15.00 MEHINETO AA J-11 **J-8** WML J-9 **J-7** COM Werner J-12 Reinhole 10c 10c 5c GB 6p 1883 1885 1878 \$15.00 1876 \$15.00 1877 \$15.00 Swiss20c \$25.00 Swiss20c Victoria \$12.50 \$25.00 **WHR J-14** MP J-15 Masonic J-16 J-17 Masonic J-18 MP Enamel J-13 cuff see J14 cuff see J18 ETC Black En loss Can 5c H dime 10c Weak H dime 10c 10c \$15.00 | 1863 \$15.00 \$15.00 1862 \$15.00 Pin Obv \$35.00 1877 \$35.00 1876 Lizzie J-20 Clare May v. Mi J-24 Annie **AE J-22** J-21 **AB J-23** J-19 EarRing picture nice GB 3p 10c 10c 10c Super 10c 10c \$20.00 Obv \$10.00 Castle \$20.00 Canada \$30.00 1877 Castle \$15.00 1876 \$20.00 Chattie J-26 picture J-27 Mama J-29 picture J-30 Emma J-28 CI J-25 Scratched! WJ 10c 10c 10c 10c 10c 3 scene 10c \$25.00 1875 \$20.00 \$12.50 | 2 side \$20.00 1892 1886 1876 \$35.00 \$25.00 1884 LJC J-35 Name J-36 **HL** J-34 **J-33** J-31 HHWJ-32 A to M **J39** Esther GB 6p 10c 10c GB Fa 10c 10c \$20.00 Rev \$15.00 1943 <1853> \$15.00 \$12.50 <1854> \$12.50 1860s \$15.00 1887 MINNIE J-39 LJC J-40 SJM J-41 Mary J-42 MH MG J-38 J-37 J45 Rough Design very nice 10c AU 10c 10c 10c 10c 10c \$15.00 Canada \$19.00 1891 \$15.00 Rev \$12.50 \$25.00 1887 <1854> \$15.00 1883 **LJC J-46** Rex MY **RJG? J-48** BS J-45 J-47 **AHJ-44** J-43 134 1898 10c 25c rough 10c 10c 1/16 R \$30.00 reverse \$30.00 2 side \$12.50 < 187?> 00 012 \$15.00 | <1853> \$15.00 | 1851 1840's FEB. 2014 pg. 9

Love Token Society Newsletter

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Dr. Robert C. Newhouse

5840 Tuttle Cove Rd.

Manhattan, KS 66503

COIN SALES

Seller: David Jerdee 2631 Westview Lane NW Rochester, MN 55901

In remitting, please do not forget to include the postage as follows: Orders

> up to \$ 50 - add \$3.85 up to \$100 - add \$4.50 up to \$150 - add \$5.00 up to \$200 - add \$6.00 up to \$300 - add \$7.50 up to \$400 - add \$8.75 OVER \$400 - add \$10.25



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- pg. 8-9- Coins for Sale David Jerdee



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Love Token Society Newsletter

June 2014

No. 273

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President's Message

Carol Bastable

After writing the last President's message I even got inspired to do some more work for the club. I realized that the Love Token Society Pinterest board had so many photos in it that I thought it was time to separate it into more sections so I added 14 more boards to the site. Those that logged on after reading my message may have even seen a few of them in the works. I went from 3 love token themed boards (Love Token Society, WW II Coin Trench Art, and Love Token Exhibit Materials) to adding the following: Enameled Love Tokens, Jeweled Love Tokens, Overlay Love Tokens, Cutout and Cut Down Love Tokens, Love Token Jewelry, Love Token Birds, Love Token Animals, Love Token People, Love Token Landscapes and Buildings, Love Token Floral, Love Token Sentiments and Sayings, Early English Engraved Coins, Modern Love Tokens, and Hobo Nickel/Love Token Crossover Coins. I also have an equally large number of hobo nickel boards as I hold the position of club publicist in the Original Hobo Nickel Society.

It was a couple days of solid work dividing up the images and looking for new images to fill out the newly added boards but I think was worth the effort to provide information, education, and get our hobby out there to people who may not have known what love tokens are. Plus, I periodically continue to add to the boards as I come across new images. I encourage others to also start adding their own Love Token boards on Pinterest. It is a lot of fun to just sit and look at images. I also find that some love tokens are priced on EBay at stupid buy it now prices and I will never own any of those but I can hang onto an image of a neat love token through Pinterest. It is a form of virtual collecting. EBay also makes it very easy to add the image to a Pinterest board. Just look for their icons including email a friend, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest (Large red P in a box). You must first set up an account (free, no fees involved) and publish a title to a board before adding the pictures to it. One other option is to make a board solely with coins in your collection. It is then a database for your own collection or in essence a backup file for photos one may have stored on a computer. I keep all my love tokens in a safe deposit box for safety and unfortunately do not get to see them often unless I am either doing research for an article or making an exhibit. So, looking at photos of my coins on Pinterest is quite rewarding. It is also fun to see others re-pin your coin onto their own boards. If enough people like it and re-pin it then it is almost like a pedigree for the coin...a well recognizable and liked image seen and known by many.

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT WEBMASTER Carol Bastable 5145 Admiral Place Sarasota, FL 34231 chevybassdad01@

verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT Frank Van Valen 316 Kings Highway New Durham, NH 03855 603-387-1390

SECRETARY/TREASURER Sid Gale P.O. Box 2351 Denham Springs, LA 70727 (225) 664-0718 fvanvalen@stacksbowers.com sidgale@cox.net

LOVE LETTER EDITOR Robert C. Newhouse 5840 Tuttle Cove Rd. Manhattan, KS 66503 (785) 539-1831 rcn@ksu.edu

Ask Miss Love Token MISSLOVETOKEN@ **VERIZON.NET**

General Funds

Checkbook Balance April 4, 2014 \$5,409.87

Receipts Member Dues \$150.00 Total Receipts \$150.00

Subtotal \$5,559.87

Expenses CK# 1595 Robert Newhouse

Cindy - Layout \$75.00
Claflin Book Store \$104.38
Stamps \$73.60

Misc Postage \$ 8.75

Total \$261.73
Total Expenses \$261.73

Checkbook Balance May 29, 2014 \$5.298.14

The amount above includes 1618.00 Life Member Dues and \$1264.82 from book sales.

NEW MEMBER

2097 Wendy Bishop West Mifflin, PA

Note: If 2014 appears in front of your name your annual dues for

2014 are due. Please mail \$15.00 to Sid Gale.



President's Message continued

We did have a neat article submission come in this month from a person outside of LTS. Brandon Frei found us through the LTS website. He did some research for a person he knows that owns a love token family heirloom bracelet and wrote an article on it. I had to also think of Sid Gale who as well did extensive research on the Bougere's family love token bracelet and coincidentally was republished in the last issue of the Love Letter. I will let you read on about Frei's bracelet research and do not want to give too much away about it, but let me say that it is rare when hundred plus year old love tokens can come with an original story and factual research. These are items to be cherished.

As of yet we do not have a coin of the month submission for this issue. Please keep these coming and remember that it is the members that make the club. On that note I will again mention that Bob is retiring this summer and needs his replacement. Summer was the projection so I am not sure if that meant the start of summer or the end of the summer but we also need time to coordinate with the replacement and get them situated in the role. So far there have been no nibbles. In the event there is no replacement a number of things may happen. One, there may be a delay in publishing future newsletters. Two, maybe I will write an article and put it in an envelope along with the Treasurer's report (an informal newsletter). And three, maybe we can outsource a secretarial type service to put together the newsletter however they would not have the knowledge on the topic or the connections for reprints of items from ANA, Coin World, etc. Plus the expense could be a major problem. Option four I do not even want to think about, this club has been around too long to fold (but without a newsletter I do not think we can maintain our membership). I am crossing my fingers and hoping for the best and am on a campaign to find a replacement. Thank you Bob for everything you do and keep your fingers crossed too.



In a time of great historical changethe end of the Civil War, United States Western Expansion, and amidst the Gold Rush-one Colorado man loved his wife so much that he took 7 gold \$2.5 US coins and 10kt scrap metal, and created this beautiful love token bracelet for her. Over 120 years later, a colleague handed me that same gold bracelet and asked me if I could tell her anything

about it. I gladly offered not only to find out everything I could about the bracelet, but share it with anyone and everyone who cared to listen. This is everything I was able to find about the man behind the "Burnside Bracelet."

William Oscar Burnside was born to Patrick and Lucinda Burnside on 7 September, 1861, in Belleville, Illinois. Some time thereafter, he and his family moved to Colorado. Mr. Burnside married Rosanna (Rose) T. Runyan on 15 December, 1881 in Boulder, Colorado. Just a few years later, their daughter, Edna Blanch, was born on 15 April 1885 in Lions, Colorado.



Mr. Burnside settled into Cripple Creek, Colorado in the late 1800s. He was the owner of The Burnside Mercantile Company, located on 221 Bennett Avenue. In those days, The Burnside Mercantile Co. was a brewery, and only one of two breweries that had saloons attached. Mr. Burnside was well known in that era and is referenced as Oscar Burnside in the Elmira NY Star Gazette in 1895, as well as in modern books like Cripple Creek Days by Mabel Barbee Lee. To this day, you can still see the Burnside sign, on the same building and street, resting above Bronco Billy's Casino.

While the value of Mr. Burnside's estate is unclear, he had enough money to purchase the rights to the Lonaconing claim on 21 November, 1904. The Weekly Gazette reported it to be "one of the best pieces of ground in the district" as there was a huge gold strike on the property just three months earlier. Accounting for inflation, the \$15,000 Mr. Burnside paid in 1904, is worth approximately \$400,000 today. Mr. Burnside had two very lucrative businesses that brought him and his family a lot of gold.



(Continued on page 4)

Mr. Burnside passed away on 23 December 1943 in Fort Worth, Texas, survived by his only grand-daughter, Patricia Blanche Hoggins. Since his passing, the bracelet has been passed from generation to generation; Patricia passed the Burnside Bracelet to her daughter Jerrolyn (Jerri) Hillyer, who passed the bracelet to her daughter, Cynthia Stephenson. Each owner of the Burnside Bracelet has had their own unique history, and now their family has asked me to ensure this bracelet is passed on to someone who values it as much as Rosa did. What a charge!









WINS
World Internet Numismatic Society

This is an updated article that was originally published in Love Letter No. 190, dated July/August 2000.

I am very happy to have this Azores trench art coin in my collection. It is one of my favorites. I will try to explain why it is a favorite, but first some background.

The Azores (in the Atlantic) were visited by Portuguese navigator Diogo de Seville 1427-31. The nine islands and several islets in the north Atlantic 800 miles from the homeland have been Portuguese for most of the time since 1480. The major towns are Ponta Delgada, Horta, and Angra do Heroísmo.

The following discussion of Portugal and the Azores in World War II is mostly from Wikipedia. It will set the stage for this interesting coin. Before 1943, the Portuguese government only allowed German U-boats and navy ships to refuel in the Azores. However, diplomatic efforts in 1943 persuaded Portuguese Prime Minister António de Oliveira Salazar to lease bases on Azores Islands to the British. This represented a change in policy and was a key turning point in the Battle of the Atlantic allowing the Allies to provide aerial coverage in the middle of the Atlantic.[9]

The British established RAF Lagans Field at an existing airport on Terceira Island, and the United States constructed Santa Maria Field on Santa Maria Island. On 1 December 1943, British and United States military representatives at RAF Lagans Field signed a joint agreement outlining the roles and responsibilities for the USAAF and United States Navy use of RAF Lagans Field. In return, the US agreed to assist the British in improving and extending existing facilities at Lagens. Air Transport Command transport planes began landing at Lagens Field immediately after the agreement was signed. On 31 December 1943, Prime Minister Salazar gave his consent to the arrangement with the understanding the Americans would be under British control. By the end of June 1944, more than 1,900 American airplanes had passed through these two airfields in the Azores.[12]

The air routes established allowed long range multi-engined aircraft fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks to be ferried from Morrison Field, in South Florida through Kindley Field, Bermuda to one of the two airfields in the Azores, then on to RAF St Mawgan in Cornwall throughout the year. Single-engine aircraft, however, had to be ferried on the North Atlantic Route due to their shorter ranges. Also aircraft were ferried from Newfoundland via the Azores to Cornwall. This route was subsequently designated as the Mid-Atlantic

Route. In addition, ATC ferried aircraft to French Morocco to support forces in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO) from the Azores.

A 1932 Portuguese coin is the host for this token. This is a perfectly appropriate host coin that was in circulation at the time. The trench art text is fairly easy to read:

G. D. Stottlemyer/St. Maria Azores/1944-1945.

Clearly Stottlemyer was stationed in the Azores late in the war. More than simply being in the Azores, he seems to almost certainly have been stationed at the United States airfield on Santa Maria Island. I have made cursory attempts to find information on Stottlemyer without success. However, I believe that we should eventually be able to find the basic information. The custom marking (note to self, a column on terminology as engravings, stamping etc. is needed) is pleasant if not beautiful. It is simple, but nice. So, did Stottlemyer make it himself, or was this piece professionally made?

For me, it is hard to say. It is near the top of the chart for quality if he made it himself. Alternatively, it it was professionally made, it would be toward the bottom of the scale.

I--as most trench art collectors--like items from small and/or obscure places. I believe that this piece fits that criterion nicely. It is the only customized piece that I have seen that can be attributed to the Azores. I certainly will be happy to hear of any other pieces from the Azores! fredschwan@yahoo.com





Clak This Love Hoken



It was nice to see the coin of the month column start back up in the last issue with Carol Bastable leading the effort to make it a regularly occurring column. The entry was a great late date love token example and impressive being on a dollar. It was also very informative with coverage of the later engraving style.

Along those lines I have two additional love tokens to add to the show and tell in order to further illustrate a style and period not encountered very often. One was from a sale on Etsy and the other was from eBay



Above is a Mercury dime bracelet made up of coins dated 1939, 1940, and 1941. All have three letter initials with the exception of one engraved "Class 14". Normally a number would indicate the year that a class graduated so it was a bit of a puzzle to figure out because the coins were made after 1914 and certainly before 2014. A count of the dimes gave the needed clue. The initialed coins totaled 14, indicating the number of people in the class was fourteen. So did everyone in the class get a bracelet? These students must have thought well of one another with such camaraderie. What if there were men in the class? They would not wear such a bracelet. And on an outside chance, what if this was a class of graduating nurses that might be bound for service during WW II? Only a small part of the story can be extrapolated.





(Continued on page 7)

The second love token has distinct Art Deco block lettering but is on a Washington quarter (no date reverse showing). This item is unique and was a real find. Not only is it attractively engraved but it also has added pizazz being a cutout coin. But wait, it does not stop there as this coin is extra special. Just turn it over to discover that this coin appears to be signed with a maker's name, H.J. ALPIGINI. The tiny signature also appears to be hand engraved.





Late date love tokens are not encountered very often and may even still be sitting in family junk drawers until they appear in an estate and potentially re-enter the market place. The coin mutilation act and a change in style trends virtually put love token manufacture into the grave in the post Victorian period. By the time WW II came along, the ideas on coin mutilation and fears associated with it eased. The original law referenced "fraudulently" altering money which meant changing it in some way for profit, either making the denomination higher or altering a date so it would be worth more money to a collector. Also, once mutilated it was no longer considered a coin, could not be spent, and became a token. These late date love tokens are a little studied field at this point. It is not easy to find a sector in the world of numismatics that has not been researched and these offer that opportunity to explore new ground

Coin of the Month



Love Token Society Website: http://Lovetokensociety.110mb.com/

Coins for Sale

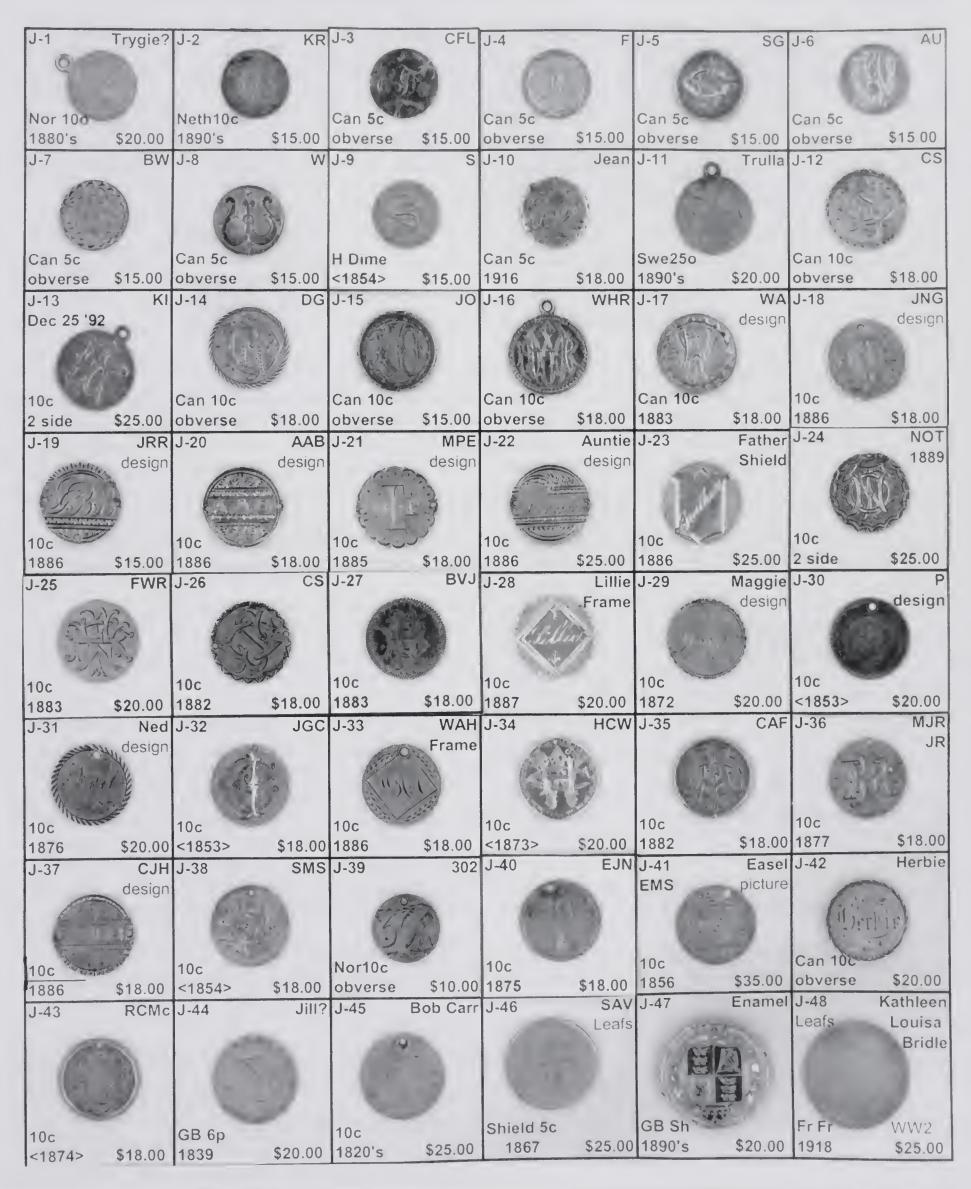
Seller: David Jerdee, 2631 Westview Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901 Email: omaha1898@peoplepc.com Phone: 507-288-2387 If you want a clearer picture just email and I will send it.

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Coins for Sale

Seller: David Jerdee, 2631 Westview Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901

Email: omaha1898@peoplepc.com Phone: 507-288-2387 If you want a clearer picture just email and I will send it.



Love
Love Token Society Newsletter

etter

Dr. Robert C. Newhouse

5840 Tuttle Cove Rd.

Manhattan, KS 66503

COIN SALES

Seller: David Jerdee 2631 Westview Lane NW Rochester, MN 55901

In remitting, please do not forget to include the postage as follows: Orders

up to \$ 50 - add \$3.85 up to \$100 - add \$4.50 up to \$150 - add \$5.00 up to \$200 - add \$6.00 up to \$300 - add \$7.50 up to \$400 - add \$8.75 OVER \$400 - add \$10.25

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ove Love Token Society Newsletter

August 2014 No. 274

President's Message By Carol Bastable

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After writing the last President's message I even got inspired to do some more work for the club. I realized that the Love Token Society Pinterest board had so many photos in it that I thought it was time to separate it into more sections so I added 14 more boards to the site. Those that logged on after reading my message may have even seen a few of them in the works. I went from 3 love token themed boards (Love Token Society, WW II Coin Trench Art, and Love Token Exhibit Materials) to adding the following: Enameled Love Tokens, Jeweled Love Tokens, Overlay Love Tokens, Cutout and Cut Down Love Tokens, Love Token Jewelry, Love Token Birds, Love Token Animals, Love Token People, Love Token Landscapes and Buildings, Love Token Floral, Love Token Sentiments and Sayings, Early English Engraved Coins, Modern Love Tokens, and Hobo Nickel/Love Token Crossover Coins. I also have an equally large number of hobo nickel boards as I hold the position of club publicist in the Original Hobo Nickel Society.

It was a couple days of solid work dividing up the images and looking for new images to fill out the newly added boards but I think was worth the effort to provide information, education, and get our hobby out there to people who may not have known what love tokens are. Plus, I periodically continue to add to the boards as I come across new images. I encourage others to also start adding their own Love Token boards on Pinterest. It is a lot of fun to just sit and look at images. I also find that some love tokens are priced on EBay at stupid buy it now prices and I will never own any of those but I can hang onto an image of a neat love token through Pinterest. It is a form of virtual collecting. EBay also makes it very easy to add the image to a Pinterest board. Just look for their icons including email a friend, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest (Large red P in a box). You must first set up an account (free, no fees involved) and publish a title to a board before adding the pictures to it. One other option is to make a board solely with coins in your collection. It is then a database for your own collection or in essence a backup file for photos one may have stored on a computer. I keep all my love tokens in a safe deposit box for safety and unfortunately do not get to see them often unless I am either doing research for an article or making an exhibit. So, looking at photos of my coins on Pinterest is quite rewarding. It is also fun to see others re-pin your coin onto their own boards. If enough people like it and re-pin it then it is almost like a pedigree for the coin...a well recognizable and liked image seen and known by many.

We did have a neat article submission come in this month from a person outside of LTS. Brandon Frei found us through the LTS website. He did some research for a person he knows that owns a love token family heirloom

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT WEBMASTER Carol Bastable 5145 Admiral Place Sarasota, FL 34231 chevybassdad01@

verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT Frank Van Valen 316 Kings Highway New Durham, NH 03855 603-387-1390 fvanvalen@stacksbowers.com sidgale@cox.net

SECRETARY/TREASURER Sid Gale P.O. Box 2351 Denham Springs, LA 70727 (225) 664-0718

LOVE LETTER EDITOR Robert C. Newhouse 5840 Tuttle Cove Rd. Manhattan, KS 66503 (785) 539-1831 rcn@ksu.edu

Ask Miss Love Token MISSLOVETOKEN@ **VERIZON.NET**

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Checkbook Balance May 29, 2014 \$5,298.14
Receipts Member Dues \$405.00
Donation \$5.00
Total Receipts \$410.00

Subtotal \$5,708.14

Expenses

CK #1596 Robert Newhouse

 Cindy - Layout
 \$ 75.00

 Hawley Print
 \$180.92

 Stamps
 \$ 78.40

 Misc Postage
 \$ 8.75

 \$343.07

CK #1597 Sid Gale \$25.64

Total Expenses

\$368.71

Checkbook Balance August 1, 2014

\$5,339.43

The amount above includes 1618.00 Life Member Dues and

\$1264.82 from book sales.

NEW MEMBERS

2098 Lynn Soloway Seward, NE 2099 Nona Groesbeck Warren, MI Note: If 2014 appears in front of your name your annual dues for 2014 are due.

Please mail \$15.00 to Sid Gale.

Secretary/Treasurer
Sid Gale

President's Message continued

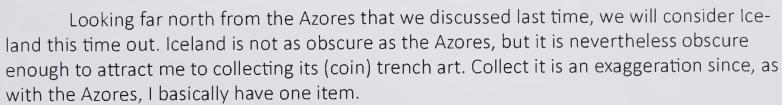
bracelet and wrote an article on it. I had to also think of Sid Gale who as well did extensive research on the Bougere's family love token bracelet and coincidentally was republished in the last issue of the Love Letter. I will let you read on about Frei's bracelet research and do not want to give too much away about it, but let me say that it is rare when hundred plus year old love tokens can come with an original story and factual research. These are items to be cherished.

As of yet we do not have a coin of the month submission for this issue. Please keep these coming and remember that it is the members that make the club. On that note I will again mention that Bob is retiring this summer and needs his replacement. Summer was the projection so I am not sure if that meant the start of summer or the end of the summer but we also need time to coordinate with the replacement and get them situated in the role. So far there have been no nibbles. In the event there is no replacement a number of things may happen. One, there may be a delay in publishing future newsletters. Two, maybe I will write an article and put it in an envelope along with the Treasurer's report (an informal newsletter). And three, maybe we can outsource a secretarial type service to put together the newsletter however they would not have the knowledge on the topic or the connections for reprints of items from ANA, Coin World, etc. Plus the expense could be a major problem. Option four I do not even want to think about, this club has been around too long to fold (but without a newsletter I do not think we can maintain our membership). I am crossing my fingers and hoping for the best and am on a campaign to find a replacement. Thank you Bob for everything you do and keep your fingers crossed too.

Newsletter layout & design Cindy Jeffrey 15850 Galilee Rd. Olsburg, KS 66520 cinraney@k-state.edu







We might think of Iceland as obscure, but its strategic location made it a key place and "home" for an interesting array of Allies. At the beginning of World War II, Iceland was a sovereign kingdom in personal union with Denmark, with King Christian X as head of state. Iceland officially remained neutral throughout World War II. However, the British invaded Iceland on 10 May 1940. On 7 July 1941, the defence of Iceland was transferred from Britain to the United States. Both of these actions were at the invitation of Icelandic officials.

During the time of the British garrison, Canadian and British troops were used. For the United States, the marines started the occupation. The marines were then replaced by soldiers. Coins for Iceland were produced in England during the war and a 1 krona bank note was printed locally. The notes in particular come in many varieties and are eagerly sought by collectors. Together the coins and notes can make an interesting, historic collection. They also provided ready material for trench art.

Unfortunately, I have not found much Icelandic trench art. I have seen a few short snorters with the emergency note, but I do not even have an image of one of those. If I every find one (even just the image), it will give me an excuse to revisit Iceland here.

The most common trench art items are bracelets made from the 1 eyrir bronze coins. These coins were minted with 1940 and 942 dates and make attractive bracelets. I have never seen a bracelet with engraving, but there is little doubt that these are trench art items. So that gets us to the one engraved item that I can show you. It is a nice 5 aurar copper nickel coin engraved Iceland 1942. That pretty well places the piece for us.

Based on the quality of the engraving, I believe that this is a soldier made piece, but that is a somewhat close judgement. At one time this piece was mounted in some way. It was probably part of a necklace, but there are other possibilities as well.

I look forward to your comments on this item or any other aspect of trench art. I have emptied my mail box in anticipation of your message: fredschwan@yahoo.com.

A Blast From the Past by Carol Bastable

Many love token aficionados enjoy collecting multiple kinds of coin art so I am sharing a fabulous find with the LTS readership. Love token production is believed to have been made by various people and artisans. Local jewelers and engravers would have been the most convenient for commissioning a coin. Attempting an engraving oneself would have been economical but the results would have been iffy. It is also a long held belief that coins were engraved by craftsmen at fairs and expositions. The Columbian Exposition is perhaps the best known one and lured droves of people from all across the country. Perhaps best associated with it from a numismatic standpoint are the box coins that were made from Columbian half dollars and perhaps trade dollars as well.

A recent discovery and purchase on eBay gives a rare window into the past. While searching for old print advertisements from Victorian publications, some numismatic related items were discovered. The first ad is for a trade dollars made into a box coin or locket. The ad is from a company called Busiest House In America and was printed in 1896, postdating the 1893 Columbian Exposition. The coin is described as being a "secret locket" and sold for \$6.00 when made. Through the years these coins have come to be called opium dollars and also come with a story about being used to smuggle opium. However, most of the coins on

the market contain a photo or at the very least a framing or housing for a photo which are much like regular lockets from the early 1900's. Coin dealers have interchanged the names opium dollar, box dollar, and box coins (when referencing other denominations). In light of this recent discovery, the name of this collectible should be changed to secret lockets.

The secret locket ad has other utilitarian items listed on the same page such as stamp boxes, whistles, an eyeglass case, a tape measure, dental floss housed in a box, a dictionary in a metal case, along with a few other oddities. Many of these items could have also been used on ladies' chatelaines although a few of them like the locket coin do not have the necessary mounting hardware. It is more likely that these lockets were carried by men as pocket pieces and many of them do have women's portraits inside and could have been girlfriends, wives, or mothers. Potty dollars (altered trade dollars re-carved



with women sitting on chamber pots) are also believed to have been carried by men as pocket pieces. The extreme wear on some examples, both potty coins and lockets, supports the theory. There are a few instances of added jump rings on the secret lockets which would enable them to be worn on a chain and a few of them have also been personalized with engraving. These engraved examples classify as love token lockets. Most often the engraving was done on the inside lid but in rare instances it was on the outer face of the coin.







1891 Morgan dollar rare love token locket/box dollar with sculpted gold overlay initials, CVZ, or with artistic interpretation it could be CV and a sideways N as that was also an occasional practice among engravers.

The second ad is also from Busiest House In America and published in 1896. It is a coin bezel ad for Columbian half dollars as well as the Isabella quarter. The bezels ranged from as little as \$2 a dozen for simple sterling bezels to as high as \$5.50 each in 10K gold. In the Victorian period 10K gold was used as much or more than 14K gold. Lower karat gold is a stronger metal and was better suited for much of the really delicate and finely made Victorian jewelry. Additionally there is also a coin silver bezel and a rolled gold plate bezel listed in the ad. An Isabella "coin" was also made available for \$1.00 each but it is not clearly specified if they are the real legal tender quarters or some sort of look-a-like. It is interesting to see the styles of the bezels back then and to compare them with today's versions. The screw mechanism is better hidden in the earlier bezels but perhaps they were more at risk to unscrew as a coin flipped around on a chain hence making modern designs more practical.



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A Blast From the Past continued

It has been a rare opportunity to take a step back in time and unearth a bit of numismatic trivia. Unfortunately, so much that is published does not stand the test of time. Catalog ads like these are temporary and fleeting and are soon discarded with or without ever being read. Modern day dealers in this type of material refer to their field as ephemera, a term for things that do not last.

Similarly, newspaper and magazine articles also become buried or discarded with time. Even books can change when they are rewritten and republished with new editions or worse become obsolete and dated causing many to be discarded. It took 118 years to retrieve these two ads.

The new question is what else can be recovered after so much time? Few love token or coin art stories were ever recorded in print during the Victorian period, at least that we know of.

On a positive note, occasionally love tokens have stayed within families having been passed down generationally

but even then some of the details surrounding the coins are still lost.

It is a true rarity to find any period documentation or any supporting evidence in this field. With dedicated collectors, researchers, and growing opportunities to search through the internet, there is the potential to piece together a larger history for the collectors of the future.

by Carol Bastable



"ROBB EDINBRO ADD AYLIGHT"

By

Frank Van Valen



One of my favorite love tokens is the one pictured here. It came to me several years ago while I was visiting a potential auction consignor here in New Hampshire. After going over the collection and deciding which coins were auction-bound, he showed me a box of other "neat" items that were not suitable for auction but were certainly suitable for collecting. Among the items was an unusual love token that I took to immediately. When he noticed my interest he offered to give it to me. I in return offered to buy it, but the nice gentleman would have nothing to do with that and now the piece is a part of my love token collection, and a cherished one at that. The intricate engraving was done on the obverse of the coin, so there is no way of knowing the date, but the reverse is of the 1860 to 1891 style.

On the token, a finely detailed gentleman of the road walks to the left down a railroad track wearing a hat and a long coat. Over his shoulder is his neatly folded parasol with a bindlestiff hanging from the end of it. Arcing around the rim is the saying ROBB EDINBRO ADD AYLIGHT. It took me a few moments to read what it actually says, and I'm not going to ruin the surprise for you. Read the inscription carefully and you too will find our hobo friend's tale of lament.

I started my love token collection by date around 35 years ago. At that time I owned around fifty love tokens and noticed that over half of them were on dimes. I started putting all the different dime dates in order, noticing many duplicates from the 1870's and 1880's. I thought it would be cool to try and get all of the dates in the Seated Liberty series.

The collection took a back seat for many years due to my struggle to assemble a nice U.S. type collection, a date collection of Capped Bust Half Dollars, Hobo Nickels, CWT's, large and small currency types, errors, and many more numismatic interests that I've put together during the 50 plus years that I have collected coins.

Around ten years ago I realized that I had all the coins and notes that I could afford and unless I won the lottery or got a really great job—I had the most complete collections that I could—but wait! I didn't have all the dime love tokens that I needed for that Lib. Seated set. How hard could that be? Most love tokens are considered damaged coins by a large portion of the coin fraternity so I should be able to complete my quest for all the dates that I still needed without spending much money. HA! So anyway, around ten years ago I started seriously looking for love tokens on dated U.S. dimes. I included the Barber Dime Series and added the Bust Dime series after a while, and finally to make it interesting, I set my goal at all dimes from 1820 thru 1920.

Capped Bust Dimes were first made in 1809, next made in 1811 and again in 1814. They were not made again until 1820 and, with the exception of 1826, dimes were made every year until today. Those long gaps in the series and the fact that hardly any U.S. coins dated earlier exist as love tokens were my reasons to start at 1820. Running thru the year 1920 would be 101 coins. Minus the non-existent 1826 and the number is 100 coins.

My collection, when completed, will be 104 coins. I've included the 1853 no arrows dime (along with the 1853 with arrows) and the 1873 no arrows (along with the 1873 with arrows) Also the 1837 Capped Bust and the 1837 Seated/no stars dimes. I have all of these along with the 1916 Barber and 1916 Winged Liberty Dimes.

I've learned a lot about the Seated Dime series and love tokens in general. For instance I already knew that the 1844 dime was a tough date and that it is known as the "Little Orphan Annie" dime. I learned that the reason for this was that it was only minted in Philadelphia (New Orleans also minted dimes, but not in 1844) The Philadelphia Mint only produced 72,500 dimes that year. The rumors over the years vary about what happened next. It has been postulated that Indians hijacked the shipment of dimes that had been sent to the western states. Another theory is that the dimes were shipped by sea on a boat that sank. There are possibly other theories, but what is generally agreed on is that half of the original mintage was lost before it ever reached the public. It took me many years to find an 1844 dime love token but I did, and when I did, it replaced the 1844 Half-Dime love token that I had been using as a "hole filler"

I found that the years 1879, 1880 and 1881 are tough dates too. I consider them the "terrible trio". The Bland-Allison Act was passed in 1878, requiring the U.S. Government to buy millions of dollars of silver each month to coin into silver dollars. Millions of Morgan Dollars were minted and the minor silver coins took a back seat at the mint. The following year the minting of dimes was reduced to a feeble token effort. The 1880 had the highest mintage of the three, at 36 thousand pieces, with the 1879 having less than half of that. The Liberty Seated series has over 22 dates with mintages under one million coins (and that is not counting branch mint issues and some major varieties.) There are about 11 dates with mintages of under one hundred thousand coins.

On the "other side of the coin" Winged Liberty (or "Mercury") dimes are plentiful. Many of us (myself included) can remember them in change. Even the early dates were made in the tens of millions. The lowest mintage from 1916 thru 1920 is the 1916, at over 22 million pieces. A 1916 love token could be on a D or S minted coin, which would bring the total mintage of 1916 to about 33 million coins. (Anyone out there have a 1916 D Merc love token?) The surprising thing I've found, is that with so plentiful number of canvases for love tokens, there are so few around. (I still need the 1918 and 1919)

The reason, of course, is that the love token fad had waned in the 1890's as other types of jewelry and other terms of endearment had become popular. Fewer and fewer people were making them any more.

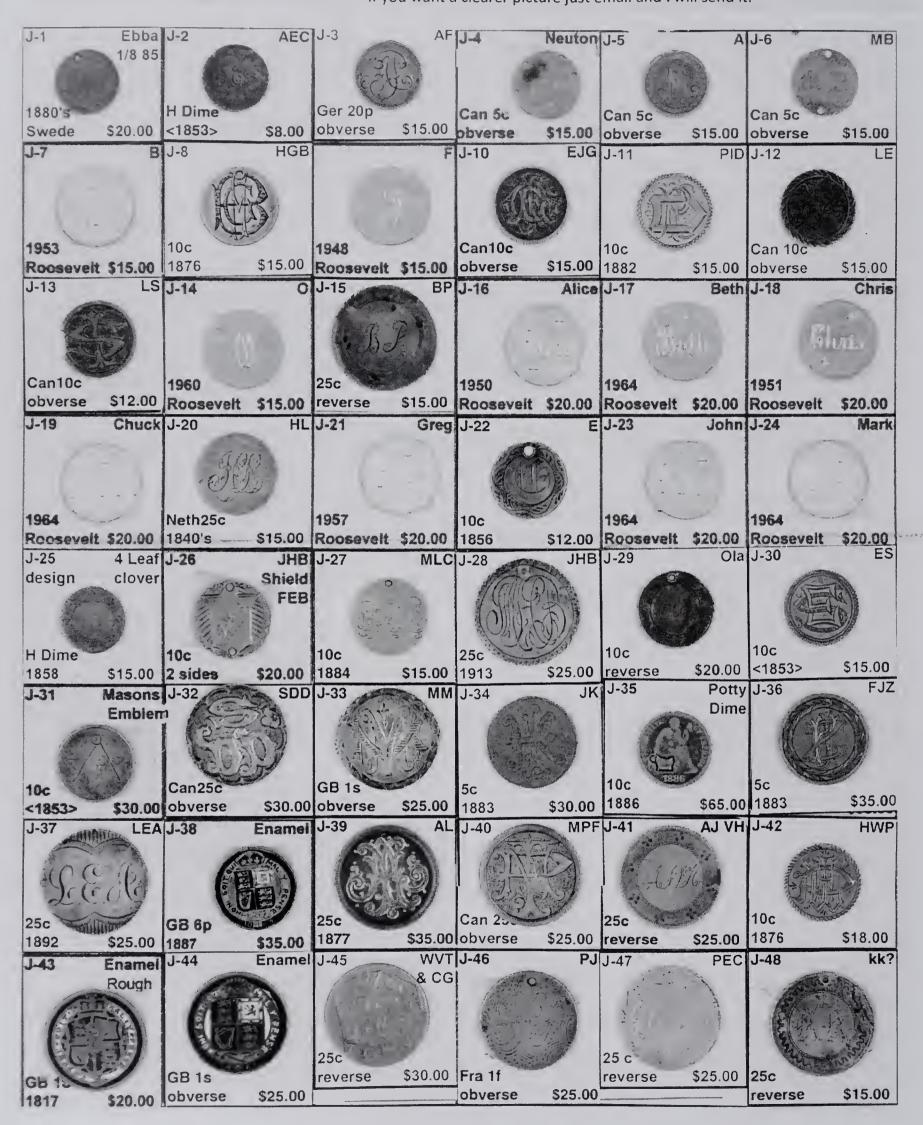
The low mintages of certain dates, the coin shortages and hording during the Civil War, the lack of popularity at both the beginning dates and the ending dates of this project have made it quite a challenge.

I joined the Love Token Society about 5 years ago. My reasons (besides liking and collecting them) were to see if others were crazy like me and collected by date, and to make contacts to find the dates that I didn't have. In that time I was happy enough just to read the Love Letter journal and find a piece here and there for the collection. Also, during that time, I moved from New York to California. I've been busy changing homes and careers.

I am now settled in and happy to say that I am 8 dates away from completion. I will now reach out to fellow members to help locate the following dates that I still need. They are; 1822 1825 1828 1846 1867 1879 1918 1919. So if anyone knows where I can buy or trade for any of these dime love tokens, please contact me at Berenhaus@aol.com or call 818 578-3582. I'll let you know how it goes in a future issue. Thank you so much, Steve Berenhaus

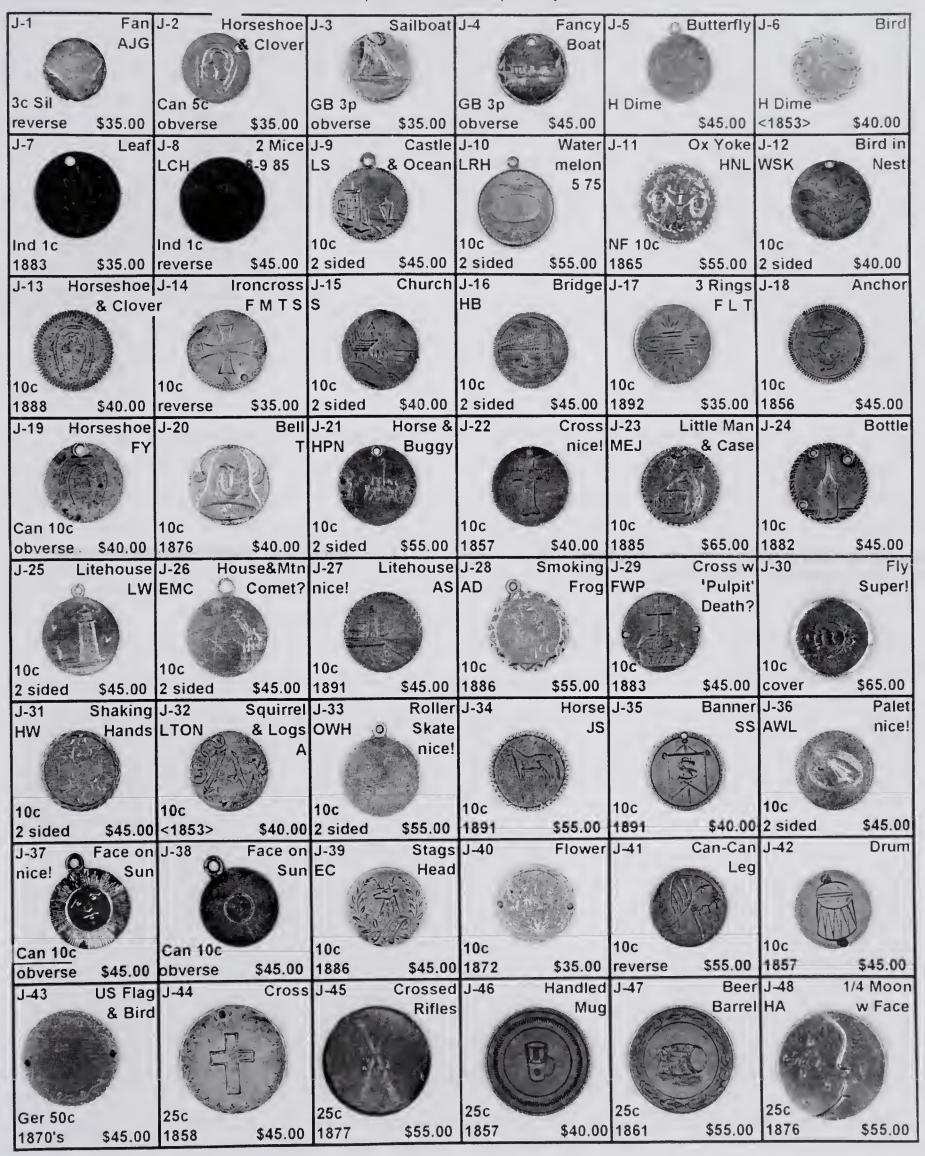
Coins for Sale

Seller: David Jerdee, 2631 Westview Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901 Email: omaha1898@peoplepc.com Phone: 507-288-2387 If you want a clearer picture just email and I will send it.



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Love Token Society Website: http://Lovetokensociety.110mb.com/



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Carol Bastable

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Sid Gale

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No. 275

October 2014

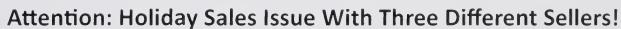
Love Token Society Newsletter

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President's Message

Carol Bastable



As I sit here writing this message, I am left wondering where the year has gone. Already we are into fall and then surely a rapid dash to Christmas, Hanukah, and New Year's. With that in mind, it was decided to put out a holiday issue of just coin sales. It was then determined that the fall issue was best incase anyone's purchases would be needed in time for Christmas as gifts for loved ones. Love tokens were of course traditionally given as gifts to family, friends, and among courting couples.

In order to fill the entire issue, we have three individual sellers. This means that buyers will have to call or email the sellers independently, as well as making separate payments. The sellers cannot combine the shipping costs with each other's items because the coins are being mailed from three different states (shipping table on back page of LL). David Jerdee continues to offer coins for sale and has been the one supplying a regular stream of coins in past newsletters. His coins will have a "J" preceding the coin order number.

The newcomer listers are really old hands at this and names you know. Our Secretary/Treasurer, Sid Gale, is supplying coins in this month's sale. His coins will have a "G" or "Donation" preceding the coin order number and his contact information can be found on the front page in the officer listing section. I (Carol Bastable) am also listing coins for sale and will have a "C" in front of my order numbers. I have decided to break up my name collection which was acquired over the course of 25 years. As the years went on I

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Ask Miss Love Token MISSLOVETOKEN@ **VERIZON.NET**

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The amount above includes 1618.00 Life Member Dues and \$1264.82 from book sales.

NEW MEMBERS

Reinstate 474 Gregg F. Frayseth Greenville SC
2100 Erica Berger Schenectady NY
2101 James Moodey Wilmot NH

Note: If 2014 appears in front of your name your annual dues for 2014 are due.
Please mail \$15.00 to Sid Gale.

Secretary/Treasurer
Sid Gale

Love Token Society members can order the book "Love Tokens As Engraved Coins" written by our former President Lloyd L. Entenmann from Sid Gale.

Price: \$35.00 including postage.

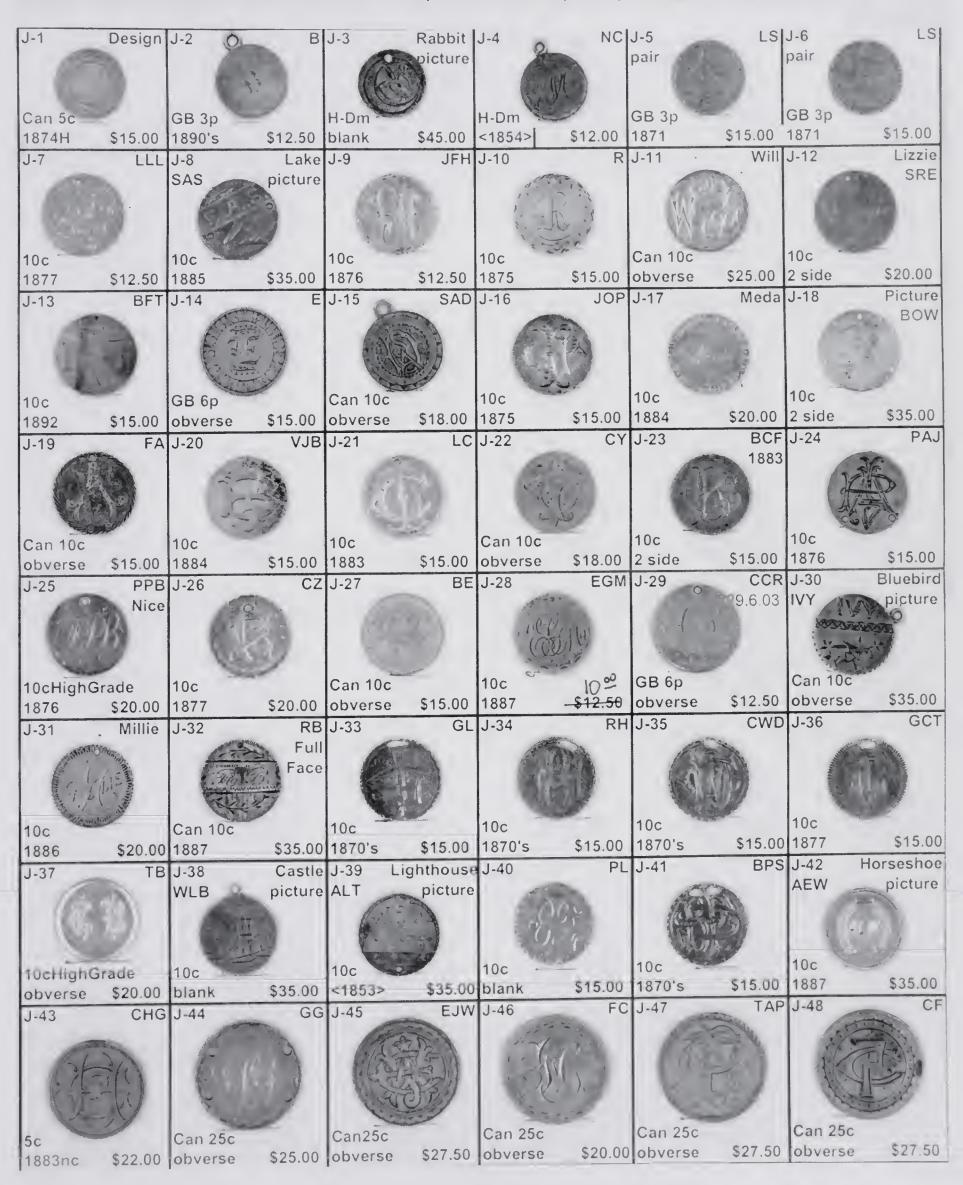
President's Message continued

found there were a lot more names out there than I had figured on. I have also sprinkled in a few other type coins and such. I can be called at 941-302-1178 or emailed.

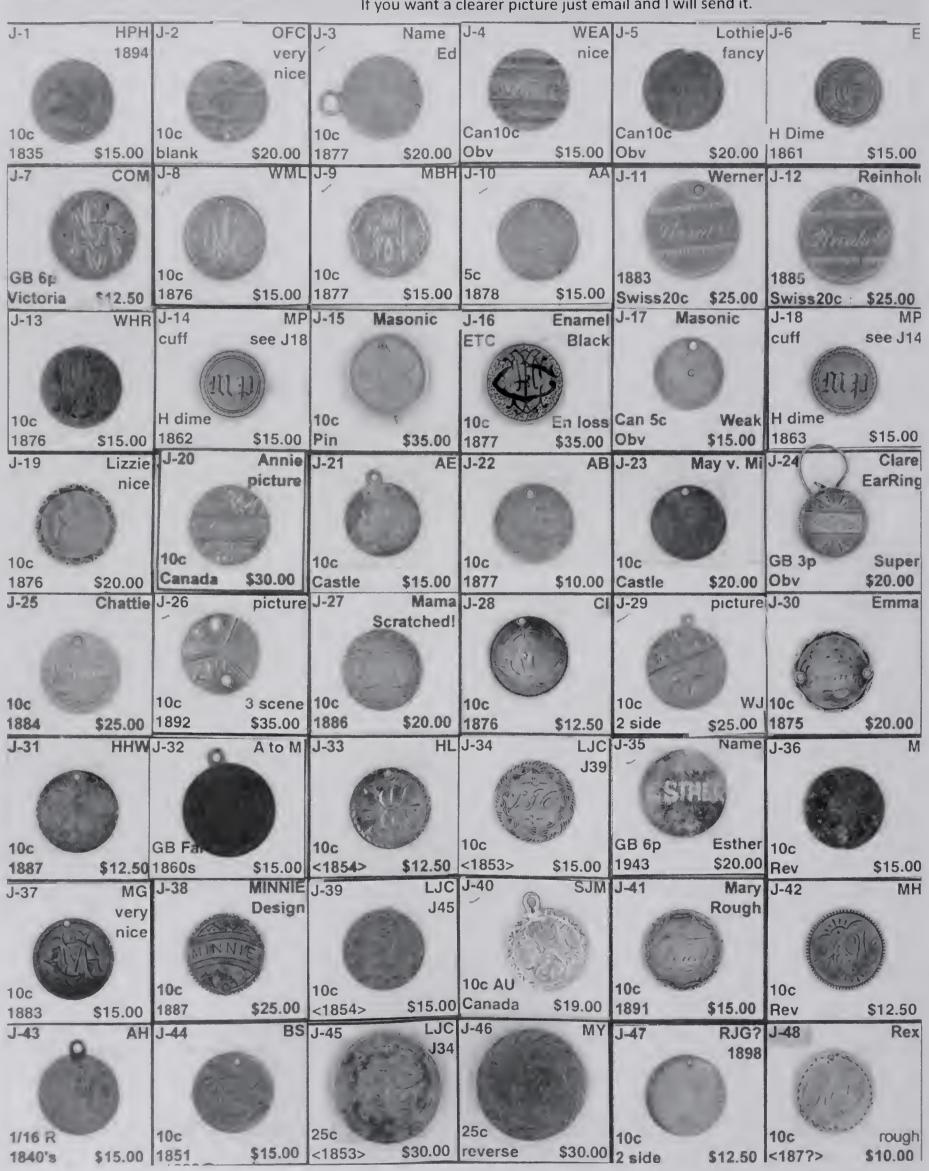
We hope that the holiday sale will become a regular event and some members may decide to join us next year on the selling end. Currently each sold love token only costs the seller a fifty cent commission fee and is one of the best bargains out there. I have even toyed with the idea of a special mail bid newsletter to replace a summer Love Letter issue. However I am not sure that there will be enough participants and for a successful sale, there has to be some extra special merchandise to list in this manner. If you cannot find what you are looking for in this issue, some people have turned to commissioning modern love tokens. Right now the best place to do that is on the Love Token Society Facebook page. There are a number of modern engravers that are on Facebook and available for commissions. A Happy Holidays to you all and hope you find just that special thing.

Newsletter layout & design Cindy Jeffrey 15850 Galilee Rd. Olsburg, KS 66520 cinraney@k-state.edu

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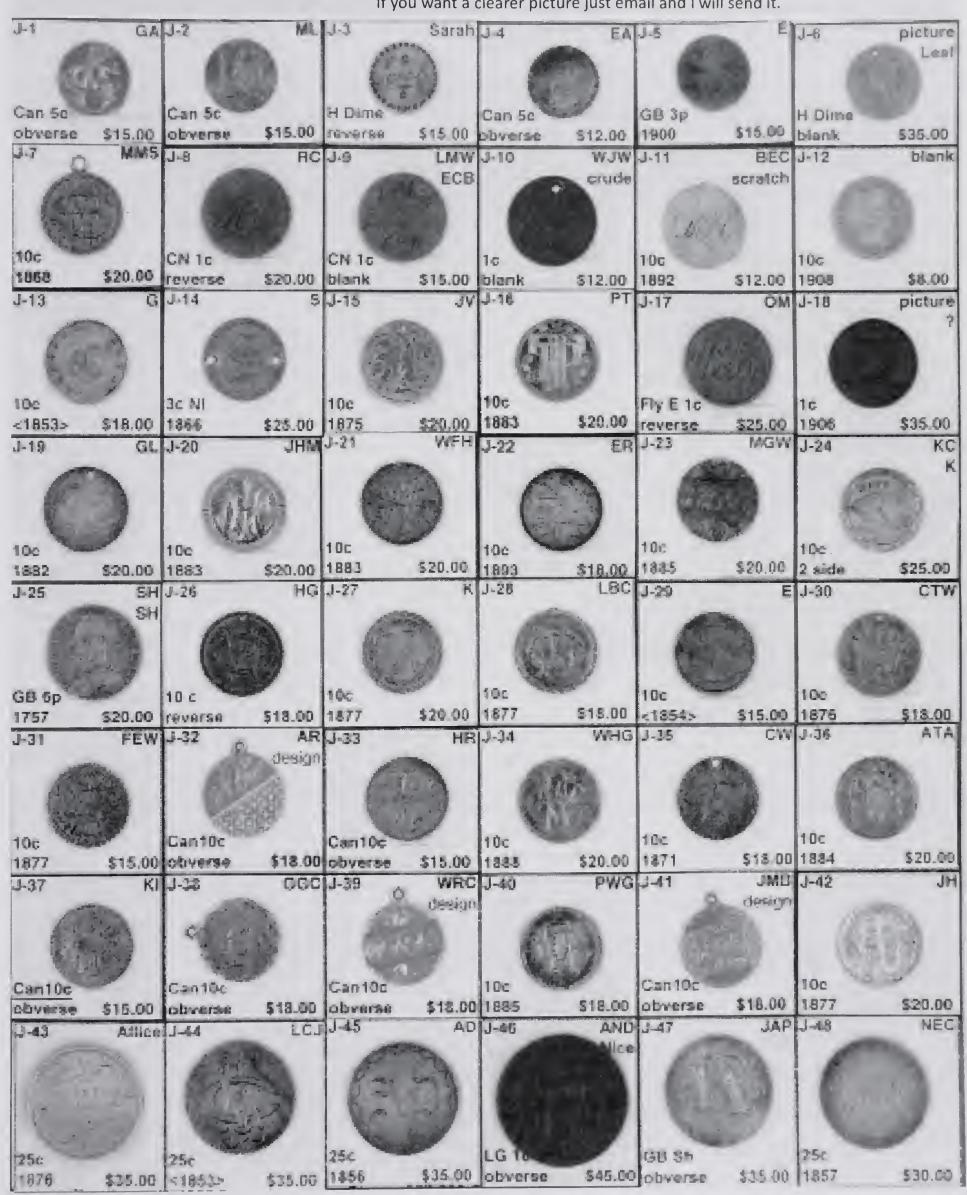


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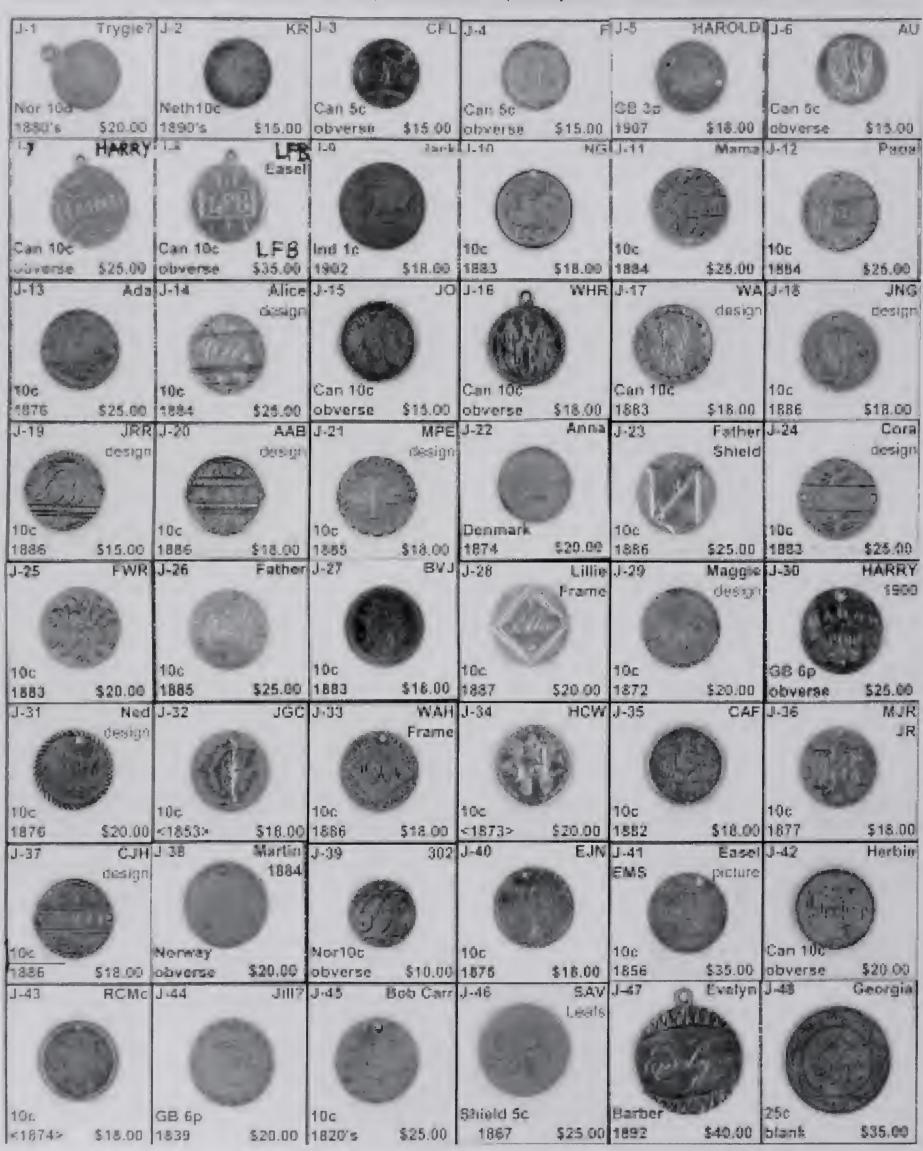


Seller: David Jerdee, 2631 Westview Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901

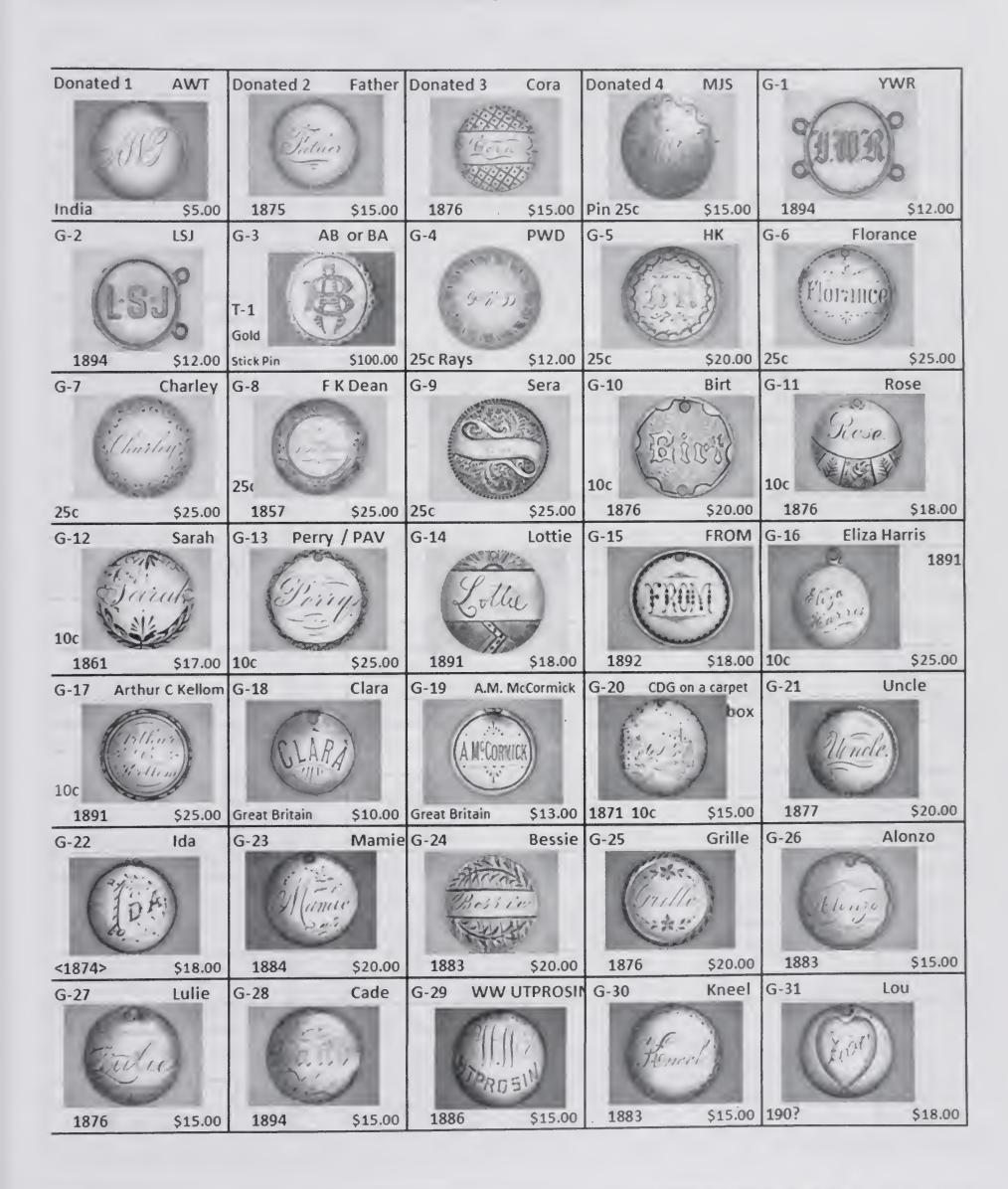
Email: omaha1898@peoplepc.com Phone: 507-288-2387 If you want a clearer picture just email and I will send it.



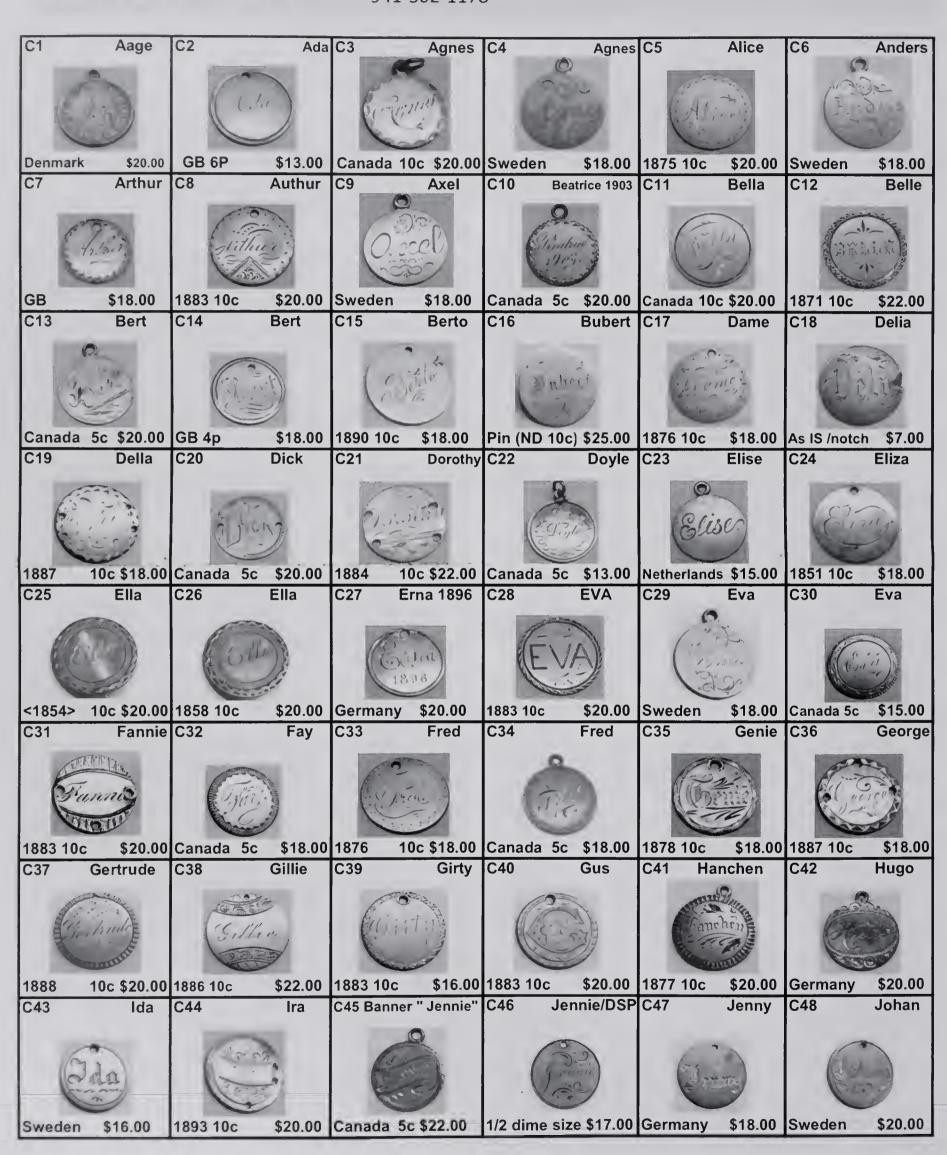
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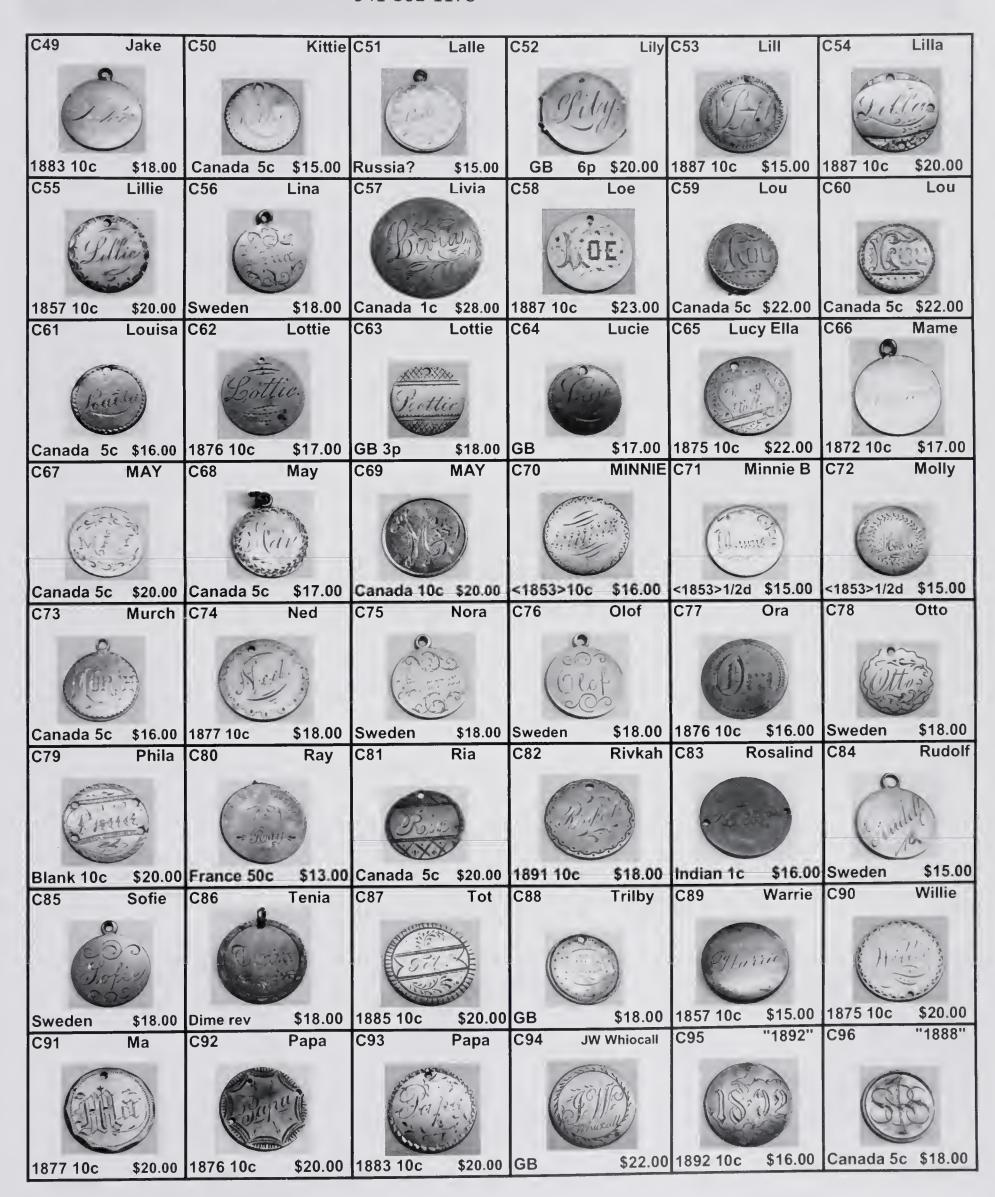
Coins for Sale Seller: Sid Gale - P.O. Box 2351, Denham Springs, LA 70727, 225-335-6205 or sidgale@cox.net. For larger image end email. The first four (4) were donated and their proceeds go to Love Token Society.



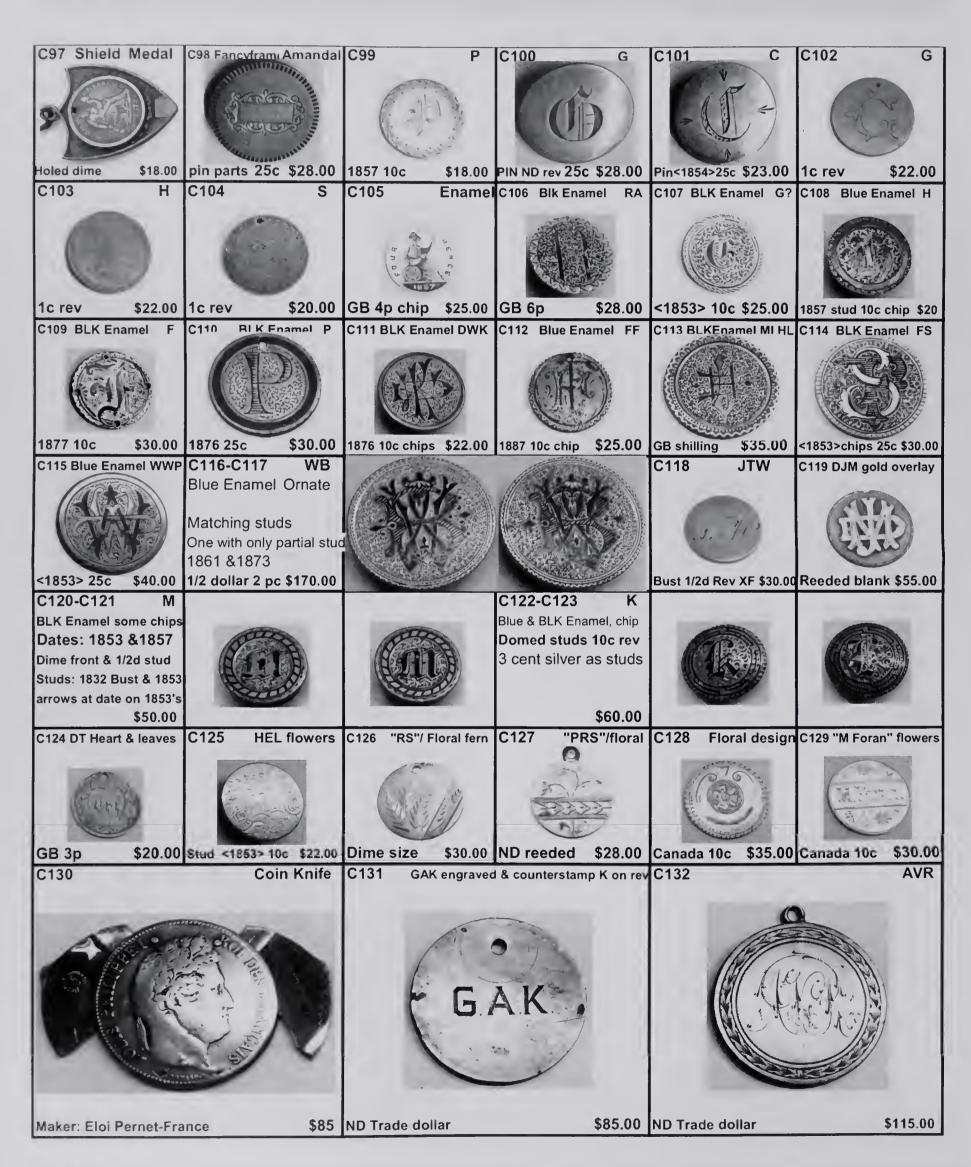
Seller: Carol Bastable, 5145 Admiral Place, Sarasota, FL 34231 941-302-1178



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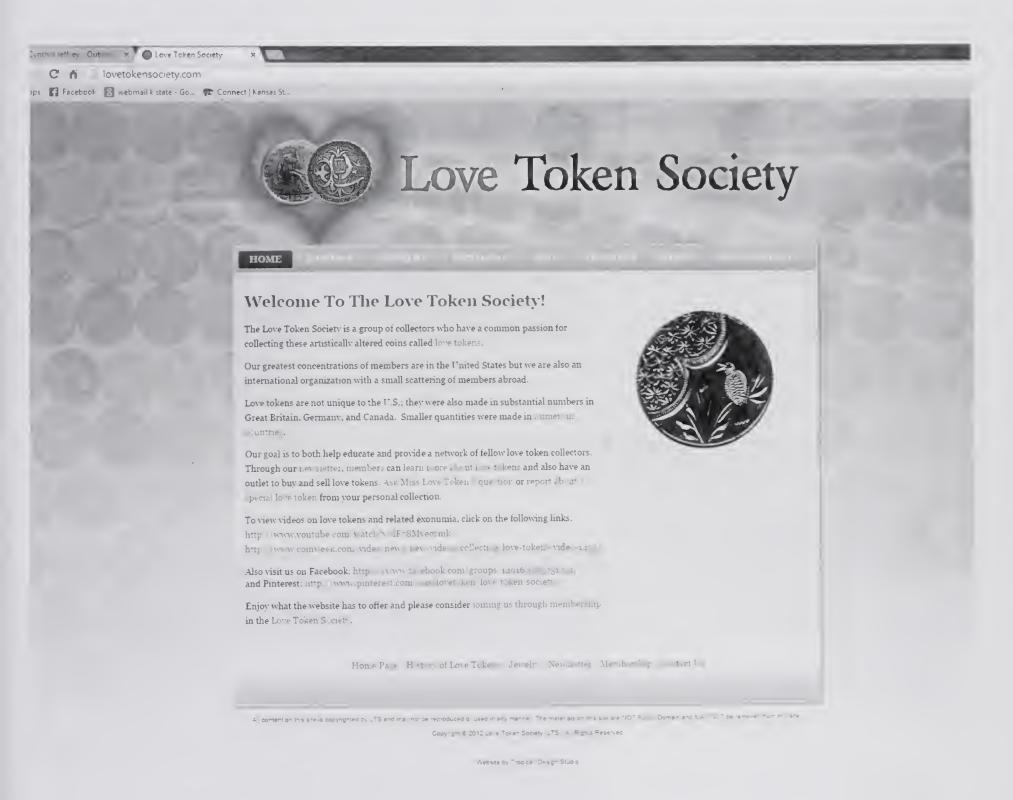


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NOTES:

Check out our website at lovetokensociety.com



Love Token Society Newsletter etter Dr. Robert C. Newhouse 5840 Tuttle Cove Rd. Manhattan, KS 66503

COIN SALES

Seller: David Jerdee 2631 Westview Lane NW Rochester, MN 55901

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up to \$ 50 - add \$3.85 up to \$100 - add \$4.50 up to \$150 - add \$5.00 up to \$200 - add \$6.00

up to \$300 - add \$7.50 up to \$400 - add \$8.75

OVER \$400 - add \$10.25

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Love Token Society Newsletter

December 2014

No. 276

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Important Note: Password Change

I hope all enjoyed last month's sales spectacular edition. For some members it is the only avenue they have for purchasing love tokens. A majority of members do search the internet for love tokens but surprisingly there are some born pre-computer age that have not yet taken the plunge with technology. Plus, in a bidding war on eBay, a normally \$10-\$15 plain initial love token could double or triple in price if more than one person adamantly wants it. The same goes for some pictorials that on occasion can fetch over \$100 each on eBay.

Coin shows are one source for buying love tokens but it takes a very large national or international show like the FUN show in order to find them for sale. But, that can be cost prohibitive and unrealistic for collectors unless they are geographically lucky to have a show near them. Even the offerings at FUN have dwindled over the last few years. Perhaps travel costs and booth rent are too high for the specialized token and medals dealers or the sellers have turned to eBay as a prime outlet. At any rate, there will be a Love Token Society meeting at FUN on Friday January 9th from 3:00-4:30pm in room W221A. Hope to see all the regular faces and maybe some new ones at the meeting.

As most of you know, LTS launched a new website a few years back. Newsletters are available for viewing online with the use of a password which is issued to members in the society. Online viewing can be a great help in selecting love tokens for purchase. The original password was published in the newsletter shortly after the website came online. The password was left the same for a number of years so people could get used to using it but it is long overdue for a change. It will be changing yearly to keep our newsletters and coin sales opportunity exclusive to our members. The current change will occur at the end of December and the new password will be: Getithere2015 Note: There are no spaces in the password and it is case sensitive so use a capitol G.

The password will change like clockwork every year and each new password will be in effect starting with the release of each June/July issue. By then the renewals will all have taken place and Sid will have the complete member roster. With the password being so overdue for a change I felt it necessary to add a half year increment for this year only. I would also like to end the publishing of the password in the newsletters for further security. Each

coming year I am planning on sending the password out via email. If you want to have the new passwords then just send me an email stating such and you will be placed on an email alert list. I will also be coordinating with Sid Gale each year to verify current membership. This may all sound like overkill, but LTS exists through paid dues and it is necessary to protect both the club and members. As most of you know, the newsletter and coin sales are the prime benefits of membership.

PRESIDENT WEBMASTER Carol Bastable 5145 Admiral Place Sarasota, FL 34231

chevybassdad01@

verizon.net

Frank Van Valen 316 Kings Highway New Durham, NH 03855 603-387-1390

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LOVE LETTER EDITOR Robert C. Newhouse 5840 Tuttle Cove Rd. Manhattan, KS 66503 (785) 539-1831 rcn@ksu.edu

Ask Miss Love Token MISSLOVETOKEN@ **VERIZON.NET**

Checkbook Balance	October 3, 20)14		\$5,077.57
Receipts Member Dues		\$60.00		
Book Sales		\$120.00		
Donated Love To	ken Sale	\$15.53		
Love Token Sale	Commission	\$9.00		
Total Re	ceipts		\$204.53	
Subtotal			\$5,28	2.10
Expenses				
CK# 1599 Sid Gal	e			
Misc Po	stage etc	\$40.21		
Ck# 1600 Robert	Newhouse			
Cindy La	ayout	\$75.00		
LL Print and Labels		\$167.78		
Stamps		\$84.00		
Misc Postage		\$58.47		
CK# 1601 ANA Dues		\$25.00		
CK# 1602 FUN Dues		\$15.00		
Total Expenses			\$465.46	
Checkbook Balance December 4, 2014			\$4,816.64	

NEW MEMBERS

2102Michael CoxLondonKY2103Joyce KurtzValley VillageCA2104Courtney LaneCharlestonSC

Love Token Society Dues Are Due January 1st for 2015. Please send payment to:

Love Token Society c/o Sid Gale P. O. Box 2351

Denham Springs, La 70727

Coin of the Month

This month's coin is sent in by Carol Bastable and is a pictorial. They are always favorites among collectors but what makes this one special is that it is a seldom seen design and possibly even unique. The engraving is of a caboose on one side and Cora on the other. It is on a dime sized coin with a reeded edge and has an attached loop. Train enthusiast love token collectors may have encountered a few steam engine engravings but a caboose is quite another matter. Write in if you have ever seen one of these so we can determine if a caboose is a unique one-of-a-kind image or not. This one sold on eBay in a buy it now auction for \$45. Unlike so many of the buy it now auctions, the price was fairly modest for such an unusual design and in a regular auction may have gone for triple the price....auction value estimate: \$125-150. A nice train engine love token can sell in the \$100 range and they are tough to find.

To see this and more go to:

http://www.pinterest.com/misslovetoken/love-token-society/





Newsletter layout & design Cindy Jeffrey 15850 Galilee Rd. Olsburg, KS 66520 cinraney@k-state.edu It has only been a couple years since the new website launched and a club Facebook (FB) account followed about a year later. Facebook came recommended as the best way to provide the club with a forum for Q & A. Both the website and Facebook are open to club members and nonmembers. The "Report a love token" section on the website has seen submissions from both LTS members and nonmembers. What is interesting is that some nonmembers start looking for information about love tokens that have been passed down to them and find our society through the website. Some of these family heirlooms come complete with family histories and that is an important missing step which does not come from normal sales involving coin dealers and collectors. It is also rare for a love token to stay within the family for such an extended length of time allowing to be researched and tracked.

The LTS Facebook page just had such an entry posted by a person that joined the club FB page in order to report on a love token that had been in her family for generations. So often we as collectors miss out on the family histories of love tokens in our collections and yearn to know more. Margie McDonald shared with us that several years ago she was given a love token by her late mother's first cousin. The coin is engraved with "Willie" on one side and "Jimmie" on the other side. The side with Jimmie has a sailboat below the name and a sun with rays above the sailboat. "Willie" was the nickname for McDonald's great-grandmother although McDonald did not know of the nickname until she started doing some genealogy research.

"Willie" was born in Taliaferro County, GA and named Frances Roberta Darracott. She was born in May of 1864, but there is no specific mention of the exact date in the records. Home births can create gaps in records but also the United States of America was involved in a Civil War which interrupted all aspects of normal life. By the end of 1863 the war had traveled south to GA and in the fall of 1864 General Sherman captured and burned Atlanta. It was a perilous time to be born but "Willie" survived the war and lived to the age of 39 when she died in Atlanta GA, on June 8th 1903. "Willie" died from Bright's disease, a historical classification for a wider group of ailments and diseases involving the kidneys.

(Continued on page 4)



Dime sized love token engraved with "Willie" and "Jimmie".



Frances Roberta "Willie" Darracott

Early census reports show the great grandmother's name as "Willie" but the name changed to F.R. Robbins in 1900 sometime after her marriage. McDonald had great difficulty in tracking her grandmother through county records until a distant cousin found an entry in the family bible and it referenced Mrs. Willie F. Robbins, died June 7th 1903. The two sets of records show the death a day apart but most likely there was a small error or a delay in recording the information.

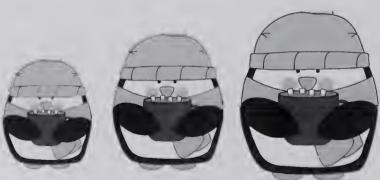
"Willie" was one of eight children. Her father was John W. Darracott and her mother was Susan Ann Chapman. They resided in Crawfordville, GA (Taliaferro Co.). "Willie" was married in Fulton County Georgia on February 4th 1891. Her husband was James Marion Robbins or "Jimmie" as the love token shows. He was born on January 20th 1860 and died January 19th 1919 as a result of injuries sustained in a streetcar accident. Both "Willie" and Jimmie" are buried at Westview Cemetery in Atlanta and were survived by two daughters: Bertie Marie and Marjorie Anita.

From researching love tokens with names, it has been found that the most popular names of the period were names that ended in IE or Y and A or IA. Both IE and Y produce a similar sound. Name examples ending with IE and Y include Addie, Aggie, Amy, Annie, Bertie, Bessie, Billie, Birdie, Birney, Carrie, Charlie, Eddie, Lillie, Lizzie, Mary, Minnie, Nellie, Nettie, and so on. Examples ending with A include Ada, Adelia, Alma, Amanda, Amelia, Angelia, Anna, Bella, Celia, Eva, and so on. Interestingly enough this love token has those same style names ending with an IE. And beyond that, the two also named their children with names of the same popular IE and A sounds...and not just one name but both the first and middle names.

Margie McDonald, who was kind enough to share the information with us, also supplied two photos for this article. One is a photograph of her great grandmother "Willie" when she was a child and the other photo is of the love token. McDonald said that when she was growing up she remembered that the photograph resided on her grandmother's chest of drawers. McDonald's grandmother had told her it was a photo of her own mother (McDonald's great grandmother), Frances Roberta at the age of thirteen. "Willie" had died when McDonald's grandmother was not quite nine and Willie's daughter had cherished the photo as a constant reminder of her mother.

With the dates supplied by McDonald, that would make the photo date to 1877. As for the love token, that must have come later than the photo but it is not known if it is from when "Willie" and "Jimmie" were dating or if it could have been a marriage union coin. At any rate one would have to add a few years onto the photo's date to put "Willie" at an appropriate dating age. "Willie" would have been eighteen by May of 1882 and she was married in February of 1891 when she was 26. The dates fall in line with the peak years for love token production. Their highest popularity of love tokens was from the mid 1870's on through the Columbian Exhibition in 1893.

Now Margie McDonald cherishes both the photo and the love token and can stare at them for minutes at a time and ponder what their lives were like. She also developed a hobby in genealogy and enjoys putting her hands on tangible items from her family's history. Our thanks go out to McDonald for sharing this family history which could have been lost. She says she found her way to us from the society's information posted on the internet.



Dear Miss Love Token,

I have recently purchased some Love tokens for myself and I was wondering if it was safe to have them cleaned or polished? I am not interested in selling them or their monetary value per se as I just love the meanings behind them. Anyway, folks have told me not to clean them because it lessens their potential value. I, however, just like them as antique pieces of jewelry that I adore wearing. I just need to know if they can be cleaned and how to do so. Thank you so much,



Dear Want to Wear,

Want to wear

Cleaning coins can cause damage. Chemical cleaners can cause chemical burn, a dull grey finish on the coin. Usually it will not happen the first time but if they have been cleaned this way in the past, there is the threat that repeated use of the chemical will damage the coin. Any kind of rouge cloth acts as a buffer and takes away coin details. Over time if done repeatedly, it will round all the nice crisp engraved lines of the love token which is undesirable. Never use a rouge cloth on a "real" coin and preferably not on the coin side of the love token. But, using just once on the engraved side is another story because these coins were probably polished either when filed down prior to engraving or after the engraving was completed.

If the toning is really dark, probably a combination of a chemical cleaner, proper rinsing to remove all chemical residue (professional conservators also use a chemical neutralizing agent in the process), drying, and a quick wipe of a rouge cloth would be my recommendation. Even experienced coin dealers can mess up a coin from time to time. They often use the chemical cleaners and have no idea how a coin was treated in the hundred plus years before they acquired it. There are even more perils like water spots or scratches from poor drying techniques. Scratches occur from rubbing it with something as simple as a paper towel which can produce "hairline" scratches on the surface. Blotting dry is preferable to rubbing.

This answer is perhaps an over simplification because a professional conservator could write a book on the subject. There are even companies which conserve coins professionally however the fees for this kind of work probably outweigh the value of love tokens. Recommend if you want them cleaned, just try doing one and see what you think of the results. Then seal it in an airtight holder (also make sure it is 100% dry before sealing) so it will not tone back because you will not want to do this on a regular basis or it will definitely damage the coins. Additional note:

The act of wearing your love tokens alone can cause damage. In bracelets they bang around and will get dings and eventually a pitted look from an excessive amount of dings. In a pendant, you may find that you like to touch or rub it. Even people seeing you wearing it can be tactile when they look at it. Overtime this also means wear and perhaps even worse wear than improper or repeated cleaning. But, the personal enjoyment you get from wearing these may also exceed their actual value if you look at it that way too. In the real estate game they have a name for this dilemma; it is called Value in Use. The cost is not always returned in full at the time of sale but the enjoyment has value which is not monetarily measurable.

Sincerely,

Miss Love Token

This question was submitted by a non-member through the website:

http://lovetokensociety.com/past-newsletter-articles/miss-love-token/?preview=true&preview_id=188&preview_nonce=75869b9daa

For frequently asked questions also go to: http://lovetokensociety.com/join/frequently-asked-questions/

I started collecting love tokens in earnest a decade or so ago, but my collection is slightly different than most. I collect Liberty Seated dime love tokens by date, but they must be unholed and unmounted to make it into my cabinet. It all began innocently enough. I had purchased an occasional love token over the years based on the quality of the host dime and the engraving. This went on for many years until I realized I had the makings of a date set of Liberty Seated dime love tokens on hand. Those first 15 or 20 pieces were problem-free, as I never enjoyed holed love tokens; just a matter of taste I guess. Like most of us, I have initialed pieces and landscapes, as well as "item" pieces that feature an item – a bunch of grapes, for instance (see illustration), a t-square, or an artist's palette. I also collect Liberty Seated dime love tokens with the engraving on the obverse of the host, leaving the reverse details unscathed by the artist's handiwork. I have numerous O, CC, and S mintmarked reverse pieces in my collection as well. As of this writing I only need a few dates to complete my set: 1837 Small Date; 1837 Large Date; 1838 Small Stars; 1846; 1847; 1853 No Arrows; 1863; 1865; 1866; 1867; and 1879. As you can see, my collection is fairly complete by date, and not a single coin is holed. In recent years I have found most of these on eBay, where the search is easy for me - if it has a hole or a mount I don't even have to stop and read the date! I house my collection in two separate Dansco coin albums, the first for Liberty Seated dimes, 1837-1891, and the second simply for dimes and where I keep my "spare" tokens. I've included some pictures of a few of my favorite love tokens from my collection of nearly 200 unholed and unmounted specimens. I hope you enjoy them.

The first is my favorite for several reasons. It's an 1886 dime with an artist's easel with a framed painting that reads "Uncle Frank," important to me as I'm the seventh of eight kids born to my folks, and I had 19 nephews and nieces growing up — it's no small wonder that my childhood nickname was "Uncle Frank."

The next piece is an 1853 Arrows dime cut down to a hexagon. I couldn't resist its six-sided nature and simply had to own it; it's currently the only non-round dime in my collection.



Another favorite is an 1884-dated piece with the engraving on the reverse. What sets this one apart is the obverse. It is counterstamped "REJECTED." My guess is the love token came into the Mint with a bunch of old tenor coinage for exchange, and as it was mutilated, it was deemed not a dime and then stamped "REJECTED." I have seen this mark before on other silver coins of the 19th century, and I'm happy to have one in my collection.

My 1840 With Drapery – yes, I collect by date and variety – is an old favorite, though I have no idea what it was for. The reverse reads: N.O'C.G. at the top, NH large at the center, with "Aug 29" in script to the left of NH, and "'84" to the right, Coast Guard, New Orleans, New Hampshire? Like most love tokens, the possibilities are endless!



Another of my favorite pieces is an 1875 with a simple engraving of an artist's still life of grapes and an apple.

Absolutely one of my favorites and perhaps the most enigmatic love token I own is somewhat eerie in appearance. Dated 1884, it shows a man fishing with his back to the shore and with the initials CB in the clouds above. What disturbs me most about the coin is the picture of a figure in a dark shroud with its hand outstretched

and nearly touching the fisherman's shoulder. It resembles Death in a cloak more than anything, including a woman of the era. Is the Grim Reaper about to claim our young fisherman, and were his initials CB? I'll never know of course, but the speculation is half the fun.

Thank you all for taking a peek at some of the treasures in my love token Liberty Seated dime collection. I hope you enjoyed them as much as I do! I wish you all a Merry Christmas or a Happy Holiday Season, no matter which way you celebrate! Until next time!





Cecelia by Sid Gale

I have collected and exhibited love tokens for approximately twenty years. I consider myself fortunate because I have been able to find many that are exceptionally nice. Of all of those, the most interesting love token in my collection is pictured above.

First, the host coin is a \$2.50 Liberty gold coin. \$2.50 gold love tokens are not very difficult to find or considered rare. However, this one being an <u>overlay</u>, a <u>pictorial</u> and enameled definitely separates it from the rest.

There are eight separate "overlays" made with several different colored gold parts. The host coin is obviously gold. The color of the bird appears to be an exact

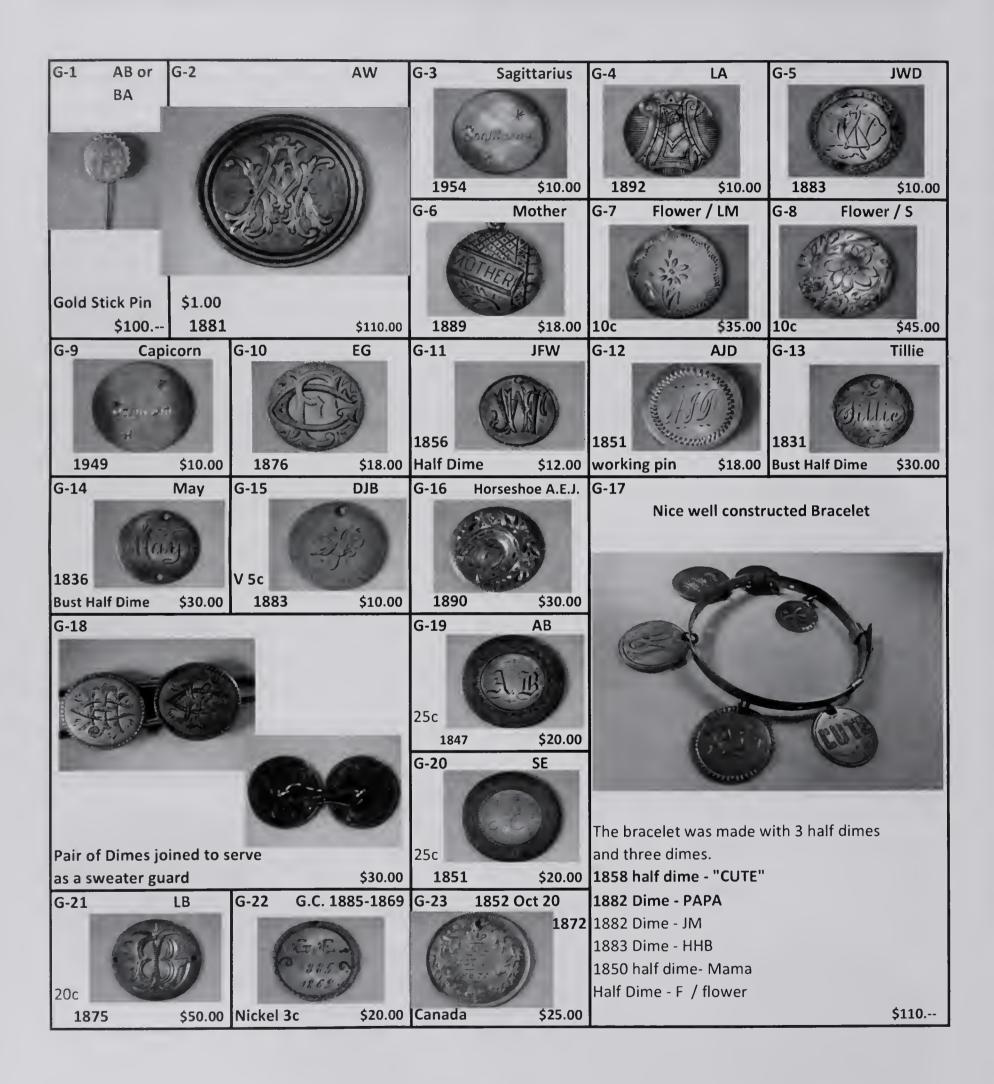
match as the host coin – possibly gold removed from another gold coin. A "carved bird" overlay or pictorial is unusual. This one could be a Swift bird that mates for life meaning true love.

The three leaves or grape bunches on the branch were made possibly from nuggets and are a slightly different color than the host coin – gold with a slight greenish tint. Gold of this color is often referred to as green gold. Silver can be alloyed with yellow gold to produce the green hue. The very detailed branch and the banner have a slight reddish or pink color that jewelers often refer to as Rose gold. Copper is alloyed with yellow gold to make red or pink gold. The overlay below the banner was made with two components - the gold leaf design with a rose gold "four leaf flower" overlaid on top of the leaf.

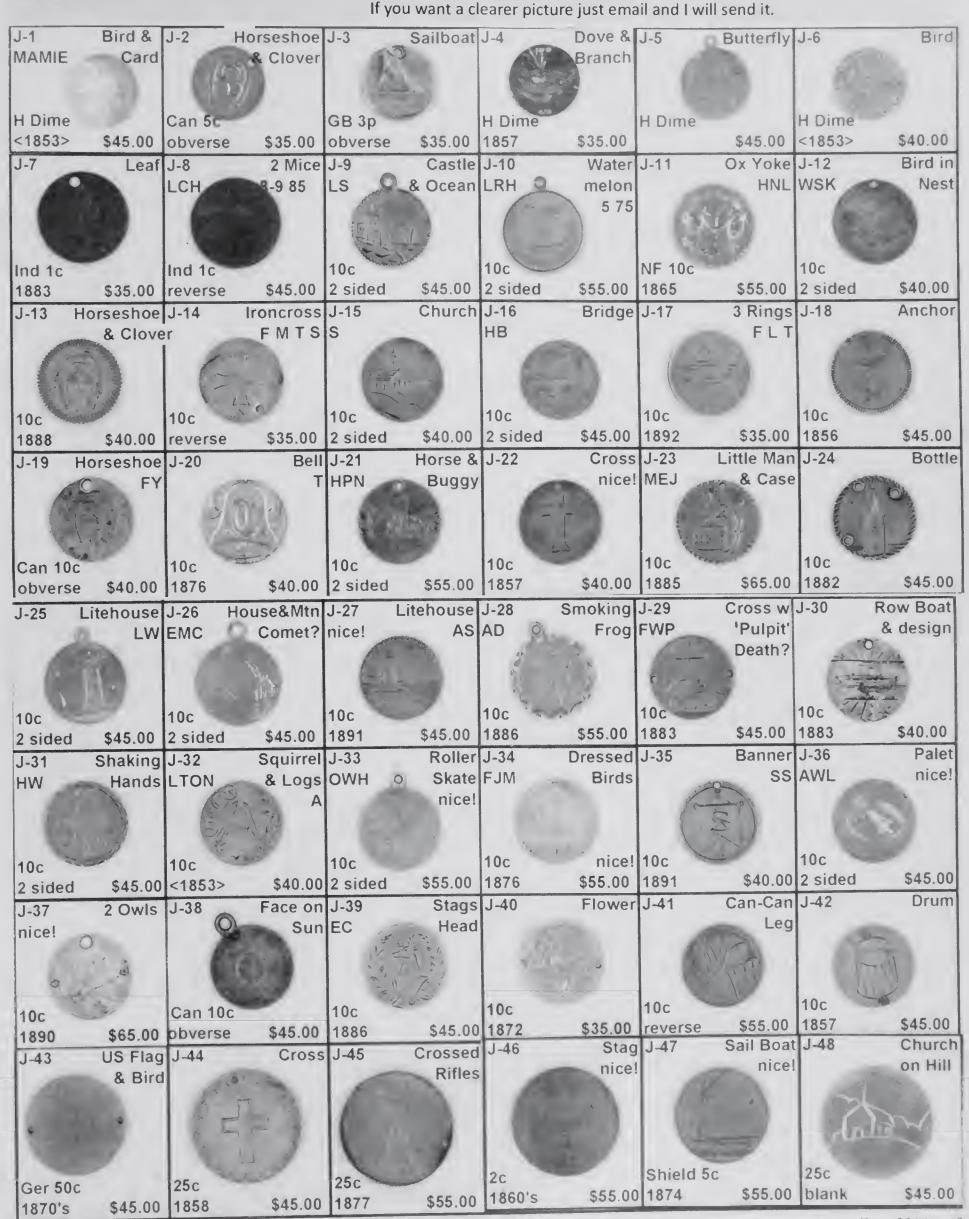
The name "Cecelia" enameled with "black letters" on the banner leads me to believe that this love token was made to mourn the passing of someone named Cecelia. If so, it would also be classified as a mourning token.

One of the joys of collecting love tokens is to exhibit them at local and national coin shows. I have exhibited this love token at numerous ANA and FUN shows throughout the country. Many a morning when I have walked in to clean the exhibit cases before the show opens I have smiled as I approached the cases. Seeing the fingerprint smudges on the glass over this love token told me that it caught many viewer's eye and they were pointing it out for someone else to see and enjoy.

Seller: Sid Gale, P.O. Box 2351, Denham Springs, LA 70727 Call 225-664-0718 or (cell) 225-335-6205 or email - sidgale@cox.net | will not be able to accept orders until Dec. 21st.



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Love Token Society Website: http://Lovetokensociety.110mb.com/

